FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-021
Wednesday
1 February 1995

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-021 — 1 February 1995

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Rabin, Mubarak, Husayn, 'Arafat To Meet in Cairo *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Taba Meetings To Discuss Trade Exchange, Tourism *[MENA]* 1
Saudi Arabia, Israel Officials Meet for Cooperation *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 1
Algeria Reportedly Offers To Cooperate Against Extremists *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 31 Jan]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Said To Meet With Iran, Syria Opposition *[AL-MANAR 30 Jan]* 1
'Arafat: PA Fulfills Obligations; Israel Unfair *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
PA Prevents 3 Anti-Israel Operations 'Recently' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 2
Islamic Jihad Leader on Movement, Bet Lid *[London AL-WASAT 30 Jan-5 Feb]* 2
    Says Oslo Accord 'Dead' *[Amman AL-MAJD 30 Jan]* 7
Donor Countries Hold First Meeting in Gaza *[THE JERUSALEM POST 31 Jan]* 9
    $695 Million Approved for PA *[Jericho VOP]* 10
Palestinian Industry, Dependence on Israel Noted *[JORDAN TIMES 29 Jan]* 10
PNC Speaker on Conditions for Charter Amendment *[Jerusalem Radio]* 11
PA-Appointed Muslim Figures Meet in Jerusalem *[THE JERUSALEM POST 31 Jan]* 11
Teachers Say Closure Paralyzes Education System *[THE JERUSALEM POST 31 Jan]* 11
Commentary: Israeli Measures Not To Force PA's Hand *[Jericho VOP]* 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Zeroual Condemns 'Inhuman' Algiers Car Bombing *[Algiers Radio]* 13
    Opposition Condemns Bombing *[AFP]* 13
Situation Moving Toward 'Further Escalation' *[London AL-HAYAH 31 Jan]* 13
Security Services Say 28 'Terrorists' Killed *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Sifi on Lack of Results in Economic Reforms *[Algiers Radio]* 14
'Sources': No Anti-Terrorism Help From Israel *[Algiers Radio]* 14

Egypt

Mubarak Invites King, 'Arafat, Rabin to Summit *[MENA]* 14
Israeli Envoy on Upcoming Peres Talks in Cairo *[MENA]* 15
    Musa on Upcoming Talks *[MENA]* 15
Interior Minister Says Terrorism 'Contained' *[MENA]* 15
AL-AHRAM on U.S. Assets-Freezing Decision *[MENA]* 16
Editor Views Clinton Asset-Freezing Decision *[AKHBAR AL-YAWM 28 Jan]* 16

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Gabonese Message of Support *[Tripoli Radio]* 19
DPRK Ambassador Reaffirms 'Full Solidarity' *[JANA]* 19
Lawyer Claims Iran Had PanAm Bombing Motive *[London AL-HAYAH 29 Jan]* 20

Mauritania

President Addresses Nation on Ramadan, Crimes *[Nouakchott Radio]* 20
Curfew 'Totally Lifted' in Nouakchott *[AFP]* 20
Opposition Leader Urges Colleagues' Release *[Libreville Radio]* 20

Morocco

King Dissolves Government; Filali Still at Post *[Rabat Radio]* 21
King Hassan Receives Saudi Government Delegation *[Rabat Radio]* 21

Sudan

Al-Bashir Addresses People's Defense Recruits *[Omdurman Radio]* 21
Abu-Salih 'Regrets' Egypt's Cutting Water Links *[Omdurman Radio]* 21

Western Sahara

SDAR Accuses UN of Aligning With Morocco *[Algiers Radio]* 22
More OAU Observers Sought in Referendum *[Algiers Radio]* 22

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Joint Legal Team Formed To Resolve Saudi-Yemeni Conflict *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 31 Jan]* 23

Bahrain

UAE Interior Minister Arrives for Security Talks *[WAKH]* 23
  Holds Talks With Interior Minister *[WAKH]* 24
  Departs After Talks *[WAKH]* 24
Jordanian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit *[Amman Radio]* 24
  Meets With Amir, Delivers Message *[WAKH]* 24
  Concludes Visit *[WAKH]* 25

Kuwait

Amir Receives Iraqi SAIRI Chairman al-Hakim *[Kuwait TV]* 25
Government Condemns Algiers Car Bombing *[Kuwait Radio]* 25

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Addresses Nation at Start of Ramadan *[SPA]* 25
CDLR Bulletin on Saudi Events *[London CDLR MONITOR 23 Dec]* 26
Paper Urges U.S. 'Objectivity' Over Egypt's NPT Stance *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 28 Jan]* 28
Paper Assails 'Contradictions' in Yemeni Statements *[AL-YAWM 29 Jan]* 29

United Arab Emirates

Jordan's al-Kabariti on Relations With Gulf States, Syria *[PETRA-JNA]* 29

Yemen

Salih: Dispute With Saudi Arabia Can Be Resolved Through Dialogue *[Sanaa Radio]* 30
  Salih Discusses Economy, Oil, Terrorism *[AL-SHA'B 24 Jan]* 30
Riyadh Said To Reject Egyptian-Syrian Observer Committee *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 31 Jan]* 31

IRAQ

Paper Reports Attempted Coup, Assassination [*Voice of the People of Kurdistan*] ... 32
SAIRI Leader al-Hakim Discusses Internal Situation ... 32
  On Army Unrest [*Tehran International*] ... 32
  Says Embargo Not Enough by Itself [*Kuwait TV*] ... 32
  Says 'Real Chance' To Oust Saddam [*SANA*] ... 33
Former Officer: Saddam Uses Poison Against Enemies [*London THE INDEPENDENT 1 Feb*] ... 33
Arab League Envoy Links Arab, Israel NPT Signatures [*INA*] ... 34
INA Cites UNICEF Report on Sanctions Impact ... 35
Plan To Destroy Regime Said Behind Economic Decline [*Voice of Islamic Revolution*] ... 35
PUK Radio Criticizes KDP Economic Siege of Irbil [*Voice of the People of Kurdistan*] ... 36
Bridge Blown Up as PUK-KDP Dispute Continues [*IRNA*] ... 36
Writer Lauds 'Heroic' Netanya 'Operation' [*AL-THAWRAH 26 Jan*] ... 37
*Kazakhstan-U.S. Uranium Deal Linked to Iran Issue [*Paris AL-MUHARRIR 12 Dec*] ... 37

ISRAEL

Peres: No Room for Gestures on Nuclear Issue [*Jerusalem Radio*] ... 39
Peres on Upcoming Meeting With Egyptian Leaders [*Jerusalem Radio*] ... 39
Egypt Reportedly To Be Given Tour of Nuclear Facility [*AFP*] ... 39
Minister: Population Does Not Support Peace Process [*Jerusalem Radio*] ... 39
Commentary Criticizes U.S. Involvement in Peace Process [*HA'ARETZ 31 Jan*] ... 40
Qedumim Settlers: IDF Agrees To Let Them Man Position [*Jerusalem Radio*] ... 41
  IDF Spokesman Denies Agreement [*Jerusalem Radio*] ... 41
Hamas Database Discovered; Linked to Jordan, Germany [*Jerusalem Radio*] ... 41
Security Forces Raid Hamas' West Bank Charities [*Jerusalem Radio*] ... 41
Shahaq Briefs Committee on Fatah Attacks, Tension in Gaza [*Jerusalem Radio*] ... 41
Ben-Eli'ezer on Opposition to Total Withdrawal From Golan [*Jerusalem Radio*] ... 42
New Jerusalem Neighborhood Approved on Confiscated Land [*Jerusalem Radio*] ... 42
Beilin, Tzur on Peace Process, Separation Policy [*'AL HAMISHMAR 31 Jan*] ... 42
Paper Urges Rabin To Admit Oslo Accord 'Mistake' [*THE JERUSALEM POST 31 Jan*] ... 43

JORDAN

King Inspects 'Liberated' Land, Speaks to Troops [*Amman TV*] ... 44
King Appoints al-Mu'ashshir Envoy to Israel [*AL-RA'Y 1 Feb*] ... 44
King Husayn To Visit Egypt for Four-Way Talks [*Amman Radio*] ... 44
Cabinet Endorses Accords With Palestinian Authority [*AL-DUSTUR 1 Feb*] ... 44
Foreign Minister al-Kabariti Visits UAE, Bahrain ... 44
  Departs for Abu Dhabi [*Amman Radio*] ... 44
  Returns to Amman [*Amman Radio*] ... 44
List of Legalized Jordanian Political Parties ... 44

LEBANON

Editor Warns U.S. of Consequences of 'War' on Muslims [*AL-SAFIR 26 Jan*] ... 47
Fadlallah Urges Sanctions, Boycotting U.S. Goods [*AL-ANWAR 28 Jan*] ... 48
Column Mocks U.S. Request That Arabs Condemn Netanya [*AL-DIYAR 25 Jan*] ... 49
Official Position Stated on Nuclear Treaty Renewal [*Cairo Radio*] ... 49
Shams-al-Din Addresses Anti-Normalization Conference [*VOL*] ... 49
  Conference Issues Final Statement [*VOL*] ... 49
Israeli Mock Raids Over Southern Areas Reported [*VOL*] ... 50
IDF Soldier, 3 'Terrorists' Killed Near Yatar [*Jerusalem TV*] ... 50

SYRIA

Al-Asad Gives U.S. Envoy Message for Clinton [*Damascus Radio*] ... 51
Press Blames Israel for Peace Talks 'Stalemate' [*Damascus Radio*] ... 51
Iraqi Committee Meets, Urges 'National Front' [*AL-BA'TH 22 Jan*] ... 51
Foreign Minister al-Shar' Returns From Bahrain [*SANA*] ... 52

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Party Leaders Hold Talks, Support UN Peace Plan *[Kabul Radio]* 53
Hekmatyar Suffers Defeat in Wardag Province *[Kabul Radio]* 53

India

Iranian 'Nerve Gas' Assistance 'Clarified' *[ISI]* 53
Turkey's President Demirel Arrives for Talks 53
  Commentary Views Ties *[Delhi Radio]* 53
  Demirel Meets With Rao *[Delhi Radio]* 54
  Two Agreements Signed *[Delhi Radio]* 54
  Sharma, Demirel at State Banquet *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Accord Reached With Bangladesh on Border Crime *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Technical Cooperation Pact Signed With Slovenia *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Paper: Nation Poised To Enter World Defense Market *[NAVBHARAT TIMES 30 Jan]* 55
Need for Investment in West Bengal Outlined *[ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA 19 Jan]* 56
Editorial Views Issue of Software Exports *[BUSINESS STANDARD 26 Jan]* 57
Article Discusses Consumer Goods Import Issue *[BUSINESS STANDARD 31 Jan]* 58
INTUC President Opposes GATT Social Clause *[DECCAN CHRONICLE 21 Dec]* 58
Task Force Arrests 20 'Top' Kashmir Militants *[Delhi Radio]* 59
  Editorial Claims Security 'Slipped' in Jammu *[INDIAN EXPRESS 27 Jan]* 59

Iran

Ahmad Khomeyni Marks 10 Days of Dawn, Ramadan *[Tehran TV]* 59
  Gulf Military Exercise Begins *[IRNA]* 60
Ayatollah Reportedly Says Regime Violates Islamic Principles *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Jan]* 60
Rebel Radio Reports 24 Jan Explosion in Sardasht *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 61
Justice Ministry Imposes Stiff Penalties on Traders *[Tehran Radio]* 61
Cost Accounting Discussed in Budget Session *[Tehran Radio]* 61
Minister Discusses Development of Cities, Towns *[Tehran Radio]* 62
Transport Official Announces Aviation Projects *[Tehran Radio]* 62
Construction Ministry on Silo Expansion Plan *[IRNA]* 62
President's Adviser Views Foreign Investments *[IRNA]* 63
Foreign Investment Restrictions Eased in Kish Zone *[Tehran TV]* 63
Central Bank Reports on Letters of Credit, Loans *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Agreement Signed on Overdue Debt to Turkey *[IRNA]* 63
'Positive Agreements' Reached With Turkmenistan *[IRNA]* 64
Exiled Shaykh Claims To Be Banned From Country *[AFP]* 64

Pakistan

Article Considers U.S. Central Asia Policy *[THE NEWS 28 Jan]* 65
Editorial Claims Bhutto 'Obeying' U.S. Policy *[TAKBEER 8 Dec]* 66
Editorial Promotes Need for Nuclear Program *[JANG 30 Jan]* 68
Article Stresses Indigenous Defense Manufacturing *[THE NEWS 27 Jan]* 68
Foreign Investment Inflow Outpaces Capital Outflow *[BUSINESS RECORDER 29 Jan]* 69
Editorial Sees Positive Signs for Investment *[BUSINESS RECORDER 31 Jan]* 69
Petroleum Minister on Outcome of Iran Visit *[Islamabad International]* 70
Asif 'Extremely Disappointed' in Russian Ties *[THE MUSLIM 28 Jan]* 70
Joint Ministerial Commission With Oman Concludes *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Retired General Reviews Current State of Army *[THE NATION 30 Jan]* 71

Arab-Israeli Talks

Rabin, Mubarak, Husayn, 'Arafat To Meet in Cairo

TA0102101995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rabin, President Mubarak, King Husayn, and Yasir 'Arafat will hold a summit meeting in Cairo tomorrow [2 February]. This is reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

President Mubarak and Foreign Minister Peres are currently conferring at the Ittihadiyah Palace in Cairo. The meeting, which began about two hours ago, is also being attended by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Israel's Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, and the Israeli ambassador in Egypt. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the participants are discussing the continuation of the peace process and the tension between Israel and Egypt.

Taba Meetings To Discuss Trade Exchange, Tourism

NC3101155495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—Ambassador Jamal al-Bayyumi, director of the Foreign Ministry's Israel Department, has stated that the objective of the meetings that will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday [7 and 8 February] next week in Taba among the ministers of trade and international cooperation of Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority [PA], the United States, and Israel, is to bolster the process of development nationally and regionally in order to serve the peace process and bolster the capabilities of the Palestinian self-rule Authority.

He said that the objective of the meetings is also to encourage initiative from the private sector to develop and increase trade exchange and economic cooperation.

Ambassador al-Bayyumi added in a statement today that Tuesday's meeting will be between Mr. Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud, minister of economy and foreign trade, and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown. It will be attended by experts from the two sides and a group of Egyptian and U.S. businessmen.

Ambassador Jamal al-Bayyumi said that on Wednesday next week, another meeting will be held attended by Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud; Ronald Brown; Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the PA; 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, Jordanian minister of trade; and Mikha Harish, Israeli minister of industry and trade.

He clarified that during the meeting they will discuss means to encourage trade between these countries and develop the Gulf of Aqaba Riviera with the objective of increasing the number of tourists there to over 1 million. It is worth noting that this area is inside Egyptian territory. In addition, discussion will focus on developing roads, railways, and airports in this region to activate tourism and increase trade exchange.

Saudi Arabia, Israel Officials Meet for Cooperation

TA3101162495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There have been initial contacts on cooperation between Israel and Saudi Arabia. The Israeli agriculture minister's adviser met with a Saudi official. The two men examined possibilities for cooperation.

Algeria Reportedly Offers To Cooperate Against Extremists

TA3101170195 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 31 Jan 95 p 19

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Algeria is offering Israel cooperation in the struggle against extremist Muslim movements.

The Algerian offer was passed by the Algerian ambassador in Vienna to his Israeli counterpart, Ambassador Yosef Govrin.

The Algerian Government proposes the setting up of joint work teams to act together against fundamentalist Muslim movements.

The Algerian proposal is being kept top secret in Jerusalem due to the great sensitivity of the issue.

It has been learned that over the past two months there have been a series of meetings between Israeli and Algerian government representatives in New York and Vienna. The Algerian ambassador to the United Nations has already informed his Israeli counterpart Gad Ya'aqobi that Israelis of Algerian origin will be able to visit Algeria without any restrictions.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Said To Meet With Iran, Syria Opposition

TA3101182495 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 30 Jan 95 p 12

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, QUDS PRESS—Iranian opposition sources have said that during his visit to Jordan at the end of last week, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met with a representative of the Iranian opposition by the name of Dr. 'Ala'eddin Turan, who was the envoy of Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization.

The sources stated that 'Arafat, who received Turan, conferred with him about relations between the PLO and the Iranian opposition. Moreover, 'Arafat was briefed about the achievements of the Iranian opposition and Iran's internal and external situation. [passage omitted]

Informed sources noted that 'Arafat also met with a prominent leader of the Syrian opposition for two and a half hours. The meeting's content was not revealed.

'Arafat: PA Fulfills Obligations; Israel Unfair

TA3101182695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat has rejected the Israeli claims that the Palestinian Authority [PA] is not acting against terrorism. According to 'Arafat, over the last few days the Palestinian Police foiled a planned suicide attack by a 15-year-old youth recruited by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. 'Arafat said the Palestinian Police detained the youth and those who sent him.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports Yasir 'Arafat made these remarks to Arab Democratic Party Knesset Members Talib al-Sani' and 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, who met him in Gaza today. 'Arafat claimed that the Palestinian Police also foiled two more attacks on Israel before the Bet Lid attack. He said all of the Islamic Jihad leaders in the Gaza Strip are presently in prison. He also ordered his security forces to detain all those suspected of carrying out attacks after the Oslo agreement and who have escaped to the Gaza Strip or Jericho.

'Arafat complained that while the PA is fulfilling all its obligations, Israel is creating difficulties and is imposing a closure on the Gaza Strip, thereby punishing those who support the peace process.

PA Prevents 3 Anti-Israel Operations 'Recently'

JN3101192095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Jan 95

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah in the self-rule area]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Palestinian Authority [PA] source has said that the Palestinian security apparatus has recently revealed three attempts to carry out operations against Israel, and arrested a number of Palestinians who were planning to carry out these operations. The PA source added that the latest attempt was revealed yesterday when a 15-year old Palestinian gave himself up to the security apparatus and confessed that he was recruited to carry out a suicide operation in Israel during the month of Ramadan.

Asked by Radio Monte Carlo whether this information is true, al- Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the PA Presidency and member of the Higher Security Council, said: The PA has communicated this information to the Western diplomats in Gaza and the Western consuls in Jerusalem. He added: The Security Council is currently investigating the arrival of the two perpetrators of the suicide Bet Lid operation in the al-Dihniyah camp near Rafah, which is set up for Palestinian collaborators with Israel. 'Abd-al- Rahim said: According to the Palestinian security investigation, the two spent a night in this camp, which is under the control of the Israeli Army, and from there, they moved, in Israeli military uniform, to carry out the operation after they were supplied with the explosives and car which were used in the operation. 'Abd-al- Rahim added that the missing link which will help reveal the ambiguity surrounding the operation exists in the al-Dihniyah camp.

'Abd-al-Rahim accused members of the secret organizations in the Israeli Army of standing behind and planning for such an operation, and giving the job of executing it to collaborators, whose activities were frozen during the rule of the Likud Party, in order to undermine the peace process and the Declaration of Principles.

'Abd-al-Rahim considered the demand by some Palestinian parties to stop the talks a service for the Likud Party's trends, noting that those parties are giving Israel excuses to evade its commitments toward the accords.

He reiterated the PA's refusal to carry out tasks similar to those carried out by the organs of Antoine Lahd in Southern Lebanon which are loyal to Israel. He said: What we are doing aims at serving the higher interests of the Palestinian people. He called on Israel to stop holding the PA responsible for this.

Islamic Jihad Leader on Movement, Bet Lid

JN3101162895 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 30 Jan-5 Feb 95 pp 15-18

[Interview with Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, by correspondent Ghassan Sharbal in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Sharbal] What is the significance of the recent [Bet Lid] operation?

[Al-Shaqaqi] First of all, this operation is within the context of our continued struggle and jihad against the occupation. However, at this stage, we are in a race against the U.S.-Zionist scheme which they want to impose on the region. They want to impose a peace which is entirely in the interest of the Zionist enemy and at the expense of the rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nations. We are openly against this imposed peace, against the forthcoming penetration, and against this hegemony. It is our duty to stop this by all means. The operation is, therefore, within this context and part of our ongoing struggle and jihad.

We want to tell the world that the Oslo agreement has created new reasons for war; it has not made peace. The Oslo agreement will not achieve peace for the Israelis and the Americans in the region. Nor will it achieve peace for us. We tell the Israelis that neither nuclear weapons nor the signatures of 'Arafat and his likes can give them security. We tell the rulers in the region: Why do you fear Israel? This enemy is not a legend. We know how strong and organized this enemy is, and yet we believe that it can be defeated if the countries of the region unify and mobilize their capabilities and if the Arab nation mobilizes its capabilities. We should not stand by helplessly while watching this serious penetration of the Arab capitals at the expense of the historical Arab role and the historical role of ancient Arab capitals, such as Cairo, Damascus, and Baghdad. A hybrid state that has existed only for several decades is today trying to take over the regional role of these ancient countries. We tell these countries: Why do you stand by helplessly when you possess dormant capabilities? The two young men who carried out the latest operation sought to teach the nation a lesson that if we have a will, then we can do everything. See how a simple operation—I mean using simple resources—can create such a quake.

[Sharbal] By way of explaining the operation, could you tell us if booby-trapped cars were used?

[Al-Shaqaqi] No, the operation was carried out by two booby-trapped strugglers without cars. The two young men set off alone against all security barricades and reached Tel Aviv. They headed for a well-studied place, namely, the largest assembly point for Israeli military men in occupied Palestine. It is from this station that the Israelis start off toward their military bases to carry out assignments of repression and oppression. Through audacious coordination and creative harmony between the strugglers, the first blew himself up at the cafeteria used by the military men, and when the Israelis came out of the well-protected station, the other struggler sneaked into the place and blew himself up. Thus, the largest losses were inflicted on the Israeli military men.

[Sharbal] What do you have to say about the losses?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The enemy said that 19 were killed and 65 were wounded. We do not have any other casualty toll.

[Sharbal] What is your information about the two young men who carried out the operation?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The first is Salah 'Abd-al-Hamid Shakir, 27, from Rafah in Gaza. He was the first in the Gaza Strip in the baccalaureate examinations. He comes from a family that has several doctors and engineers, and they are all important cadres in the Islamic Jihad Movement. Salah Shakir studied engineering in the Bi'r Zayt University. He is single. The other young man is Anwar 'Atiyah Sukkar, 25, and is married and has children. He is from al- Shuja'iyah in Gaza, a stronghold for the Islamic Jihad in Palestine. Sukkar, as we understood, left an important will. Israel said one struggler carried out the operation, and that is its business, but the plan was carried out by two people.

[Sharbal] Do you think this is the most significant operation carried out by the Islamic Jihad?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The Zionist occupation said it was the largest operation since 1967. Therefore, it must be so. The Islamic Jihad Movement has over the last 10 years fought fierce battles against the Zionist occupation. Among these operations is the Bab al- Magharibah operation, which shelled the Israeli soldiers who were being baptized at the Wailing Wall on 16 October 1986. There were 80 casualties in the ranks of the Israelis from the Giv'ati brigade who were about to graduate.

The brothers who escaped from Gaza prison in 1987 carried out a host of daring military operations, including al-Shuja'iyah operation following which the intifadah broke out on 6 October 1987. We in the Islamic Jihad say that the intifadah broke out on 6 October and what happened on 8, 9 December was an expansion and not explosion in the intifadah. Then there was the Jil'ad operation in a military training camp where some new Russian immigrants were staying, and some of these immigrants were killed. This operation was carried out by mujahidin from the territories occupied in 1948 who are members of the Islamic Jihad Movement.

There was also the al-Qastal operation in 1989 in which 16 Zionists were killed and 24 others were injured. That operation was carried out by a mujahid who had no weapon. He studied the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road several times and defined the weak points along it. On the date of the operation, he boarded the 405 bus, and at the most vulnerable point he attacked the driver and forced the bus into a ravine. All passengers were either killed or injured.

[Sharbal] Were the passengers military or civilians?

[Al-Shaqaqi] They had no specific category because it is impossible to board a bus whose passengers are all military personnel. There was a series of other daring operations that were carried out after the Oslo agreement as happened in Ashdod and Mulun [name as transliterated]. The heroic operation before the last one was the operation that was carried out in Netzarim in which the enemy admitted the killing of three officers and injury of 15 officers and soldiers. That operation was carried out in a creative way in which, and for the first time, a booby-trapped bicycle was used to storm an Israeli position.

[Sharbal] Did you meet with the two young men who carried out the Bet Lid operation?

[Al-Shaqaqi] I knew one of them very well. He is Salah Shakir whom I last met 10 years ago. I know his family very well. He was an intelligent young men who had been eager to attain martyrdom since his youth. As for the other young man, I do not know him personally.

[Sharbal] Yitzhaq Rabin has issued threats against those responsible for the operation even if they are abroad. What does this mean to you?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The Palestinian people have been engaged in a continuous battle for 75 years and have been facing a direct threat for 47 years since the setting up of the Zionist entity. When we started along this road, we were aware that the price would be very high, but this is our duty and our holy option. On the personal level, I do not care about these threats. I believe that I have lived longer than I imagined I would. The martyrs' blood is what begets more fighters and escalates confrontation against occupation. We are not worried by such threats. Finally, I repeat what Imam 'Ali said: No one will live less than the age decided by God.

[Sharbal] Was the operation a message directed to Rabin and 'Arafat?

[Al-Shaqaqi] This message was to the whole world in order to understand that what is going on in Palestine is not peace. It was also a message to the Israelis which says that neither their nuclear weapons, nor the agreements will protect them. We also say to 'Arafat that the agreements are not binding on us and do not represent the will of our people. These agreements were concluded behind the people's back, so such agreements are not binding to the Islamic Jihad Movement.

[Sharbal] This means that what is demanded is to abort the Oslo agreement.

[Al-Shaqaqi] Undoubtedly.

[Sharbal] What is the alternative?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The continuation of steadfastness, firmness, and jihad.

[Sharbal] When will jihad stop?

[Al-Shaqaqi] When we change the unjust balance of powers that prevails at present.

[Sharbal] Will it stop if you get the West Bank and Gaza, for example?

[Al-Shaqaqi] For us jihad will not stop as long as there is an occupation of any part of Palestine.

[Sharbal] What are you going to do with the Jews when the balance of powers is changed?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The Jews lived with us for centuries, and when Europe suppressed them they came to us and lived peacefully with us. We are not against the Jews at all. We are against these Jews turning into a colonialist political force that usurps our rights and land. We are against this entity becoming a force that penetrates and controls the region. As for the Jews themselves, we have no problems with them. They lived in peace with us in the past and they can continue to live in peace. We are the only nation that had never suppressed the Jews, and now this nation is suffering from suppression at the hands of the Jews.

[Sharbal] What is your program for the coming phase?

[Al-Shaqaqi] By saying that the solution is to continue the jihad, we are aware that liberating Palestine is difficult and will not take place tomorrow or the day after. This is a long journey. However, we are convinced that the Arab and Islamic nation can confront the onslaught and achieve victory if the elements of its current strength become part of a serious action, in which case the nation can achieve victory.

We are carrying this message and we will continue to remind others of it. We are confident that the nation will wake up some day and carry this message, exactly as we are carrying it now. Our duty is to keep the conflict going because ending it will mean both an end to the war and bitter defeat. The battle has been continuing since the beginning of this century, and we have thus far been defeated in several battles, particularly since World War I. However, we would like to say that the war is not over and that the transient invader who came from outside cannot impose his will on the indigenous people or on the history, geography, ideology, and will of our nation.

[Sharbal] Where will you go if the negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks succeed?

[Al-Shaqaqi] We are confident that any settlement in the region will only be temporary and based on the unfair balances of power which must be changed sooner or later. With regard to our movements, we assert that the Islamic Jihad Movement was established in Palestine and that its basic capabilities are present in Palestine. I am here, however, because the Israelis deported me from Palestine seven years ago.

Our basic organizational presence is there and our basic resistance exists throughout Palestine; namely, in the West Bank, Gaza, and the lands occupied in 1948. We are not much in evidence outside Palestine, so we can move freely without pressures. What is most important, however, is that our brothers in Palestine should continue their steadfastness. Our movements outside Palestine are not a problem.

[Sharbal] This viewpoint converges with that of Iran.

[Al-Shaqaqi] What is wrong with that?

[Sharbal] It is not a matter of right or wrong.

[Al-Shaqaqi] I believe that Iran converges with me. This viewpoint is old, and Iran converged with it 16 years ago. There are other states which have the same viewpoint.

[Sharbal] Where, specifically, is your theater of operations?

[Al-Shaqaqi] It is basically inside Palestine.

[Sharbal] Would you explain the word basically?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Outside Palestine, we only made limited movements in southern Lebanon. The Islamic Jihad does not make any military moves outside these two areas.

[Sharbal] Do you mean that you have nothing to do with the operations outside Palestine and southern Lebanon?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Yes. We defy the Americans and the international community to prove that we fired a single shot outside Palestine.

[Sharbal] Do I understand that you condemn the outside operations?

[Al-Shaqaqi] We believe that our interest calls for waging the battle in Palestine.

[Sharbal] And in southern Lebanon?

[Al-Shaqaqi] And in southern Lebanon as long as the Israeli occupation continues there.

[Sharbal] What is the size of your contribution to the battles raging in southern Lebanon?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Our contribution is limited, compared with the major contribution made by Hizballah.

[Sharbal] Can we talk about field coordination among you, Hizballah, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] in southern Lebanon?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Yes, there is coordination with Hizballah.

[Sharbal] And with the PFLP-GC?

[Al-Shaqaqi] On the general Palestinian situation.

[Sharbal] Is there a joint operations room?

[Al-Shaqaqi] There is no need for details on this issue. However, there is coordination and cooperation with the brothers in Hizballah because we are moving toward a common objective.

[Sharbal] Fighting against an enemy like Israel requires assistance. Is it accurate to say that Iran is your main source of finance?

[Al-Shaqaqi] First, there is no doubt that no militant movement can wage a difficult and complicated struggle without financial capabilities. But I will tell you the truth. Until 1988, we did not receive any aid from outside the movement and members' subscriptions. During those years, we carried out very important operations and firmly established the movement. However, since the beginning of the intifadah, we have been receiving aid from friends who agree with us on the strategic goal. This aid is unconditional, except that it should be geared toward serving the strategic goal. But this aid remains limited. The key factor is the movement's effort and the vitality of its members. The Palestinian revolution has spent billions of dollars and the PLO leadership wasted billions to become a police force on behalf of the occupation. If we, the Islamic Jihad Movement, attain 1 percent of the resources of the wealthy Palestinians, then we will be able to directly talk about the liberation of Palestine or at least forcing the occupation out of the West Bank and Gaza Strip without any conditions. Our resources are very, very limited. But, unlike others, we spend them only in the right place and in accordance with accurate and calculated priorities.

[Sharbal] But is there any aid from Iran?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Aid is received from friends from several quarters. There is no need to specify them.

[Sharbal] The relationship with Iran is not secret?

[Al-Shaqaqi] About four years ago, the Iranian Majles made a decision to support the Palestinian intifadah and offer aid to it and its martyrs. Like other movements, the Islamic Jihad Movement is acquainted with this aid, which goes to supporting our people. At the early beginnings of the movement, we used to rely on subscriptions. Later, because of the economic difficulties, that source became insufficient. Therefore, we have been for some time relying on some wealthy friends and brothers in Palestine and abroad.

[Sharbal] From the Arab world.

[Al-Shaqaqi] Possibly.

[Sharbal] Do you consider the areas under the control of the National Authority areas that can be used for launching military operations?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The National Authority controls 2 percent of the land of Palestine. An important part of this 2 percent is occupied by settlements and constitutes a living space for the Israeli Army. We believe that wherever there is occupation, be it in the form of army or settlements, there will be room for our jihad.

[Sharbal] Can we say that a Palestinian civil war is possible?

[Al-Shaqaqi] I rule out a Palestinian civil war, though I do not rule out incidents such as the Filasin Mosque massacre or very limited clashes. The elements of civil war do not exist in Palestine. There is a complete ethnic, religious, and sectarian harmony. There are also family ties. In the same family, you can find a member affiliated with Hamas, another with the Jihad Movement, and possibly a third with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine or Fatah. The elements of civil war the Afghan way are nonexistent in Palestine. Therefore, I rule out a civil war. But because of the self-rule authority's occasional ridiculous practices, I do not rule out the recurrence of what had happened at the Filastin Mosque or limited incidents.

[Sharbal] When was the idea of "jihad" generated?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The idea was generated when we were students in Egypt. We were a group of educated Palestinian Islamic youths who saw a national secular trend speaking about the liberation of Palestine. However, Islam was ruled out from this trend. We also saw a traditional Islamic trend speaking about Islam and its commitments, forgetting the national issue and Palestine. We were seeing nationalists without Islam and Islamists without Palestine. The Islamic Jihad Movement came through our awareness of Islam, the Koran, history, and reality so that it will be a solution to this problem. We launched our movement under the following slogans: Islam is our principle, jihad is our means, and Palestine is the target which we will liberate.

I stayed in Egypt from 1974 until 1981. These dialogues, which intensified after 1975, were intellectual to begin with, and then they created a political atmosphere in Egypt. I was studying medicine at al-Zaqaziq University and some brothers were studying in other universities in Cairo, Alexandria, and elsewhere. The political atmosphere produced a small organizational nucleus which laid down the ideological, political, and structural bases of the organization which moved to Palestine when those students graduated and returned there.

[Sharbal] Was the nucleus in Gaza?

[Al-Shaqaqi] In Gaza and elsewhere. After my return, I worked as a doctor in Jerusalem and I contacted persons throughout the West Bank and in areas occupied in 1948. However, most of the students who studied in Egypt were from Gaza because it was easy for Gazan students at that time to move between Gaza and Egypt.

[Sharbal] What is your place of birth?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Originally, we are from Zarnuqa village in the Ramlah District, which is today part of the city of Rehovot. My father emigrated to Gaza and I was born in 1951. I studied in Bir Zayt and obtained a diploma in mathematics and science. I worked as a teacher in Jerusalem for four years. Then, I studied medicine in Egypt. When I returned to Jerusalem I was put in Israeli prisons.

[Sharbal] How long did you stay in prison?

[Al-Shaqaqi] I was arrested in 1983 for one year and I was arrested again in 1986 and was sentenced to four-years imprisonment. However, Rabin discovered that it was useless to keep me in prison because my contacts with the movement continued, so he decided to deport me in 1988 to Lebanon where I stayed for one year.

[Sharbal] Where did you receive your military training?

[Al-Shaqaqi] I did not take any special military training.

[Sharbal] Were you about to be killed inside the occupied territory?

[Al-Shaqaqi] No, so far, I have not been exposed to any killing attempt.

[Sharbal] This means that you were sent to jail because of your political activities?

[Al-Shaqaqi] And because of military actions as well. This means that I organized military activities, but I did not wage them. I was always afraid of the idea of defeat. Therefore, I hoped I would die early before I see our defeat. This is what I meant when I said that I have lived longer than I had imagined.

[Sharbal] It is being said that most of the Islamic organizations in the region stemmed from the Muslim Brotherhood. How are you linked with it, particularly since your movement was founded in Egypt?

[Al-Shaqaqi] There is no doubt that the Muslim Brotherhood is the mother movement of the Islamic current in the region. However, when the Islamic Jihad Movement was established it was a rejuvenating force within the Islamic thought and the Islamic movement in terms of views, course, organization, and performance inside Palestine.

Since the beginning, we very much admired Jalal al-Din al- Afghani, who is very much valued within our movement and who is considered the pioneer of the modern Islamic movement, as Hasan al-Banna was the pioneer of the contemporary Islamic movement.

I worked with the Muslim Brotherhood at an early age before I went to Egypt and when I was in Egypt, as well. I had then many questions on issues related to the course and policies of the group, as well as on the issue of Palestine. This created a kind of estrangement in terms of course and policies. However, we harbor respect and appreciation for this movement as well as for its educational role and for safeguarding Islam in the region.

[Sharbal] Are these questions what makes differences between you and Hamas persist?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Basically, yes. Hamas has been an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood movement. Hamas' conspicuous and important role in the intifadah and the national Palestinian movement has created a great degree of rapprochement after the estrangement.

[Sharbal] How would you describe the relations with Hamas today?

[Al-Shaqaqi] I would describe them as excellent, cordial, and brotherly. We seek to increase cooperation on the ground.

[Sharbal] What if it runs for the elections?

[Al-Shaqaqi] There have been rumors, but the Hamas brothers deny them.

[Sharbal] You mean this is out of the question.

[Al-Shaqaqi] Yes, this is what they affirm.

[Sharbal] What about dialogue with the Palestinian Authority [PA]?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Political dialogue is out of the question. According to our program, we do not exclude a meeting to defuse a certain crisis on the ground. We are interested in avoiding any domestic Palestinian clash. If such a meeting takes place, we would not consider it a political dialogue. Each side proceeds from a different political background. In any political dialogue, they should either adopt our position or we should adopt theirs. In either case, this is impossible.

[Sharbal] Do you wager on attracting the PA supporters or some of them?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Our real wager is on the need for new facts to emerge in the Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic arena to change the balances of power even though partially so that jihad could be continued. We know that jihad will not end in a few years. In light of the current balances of power, the West will not allow that Israel be removed. But if these balances change, I do not believe that there will taboos.

[Sharbal] The true center of resistance is the mosque?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The mosque is a very important place to start from. It is an important place for mobilization and building a human being with a lively and creative will capable of making miracles. Undoubtedly, throughout Islamic history, the mosque plays an important role in battles.

[Sharbal] But relevant experiences in the world are disappointing. What the Afghan mujahidin did to Kabul exceeded all that the former regime had done?

[Al-Shaqaqi] We are disappointed too at what is happening in Afghanistan. But this does not mean a disappointment with Islam, the Islamic awakening, or the Islamic movement. The conflict there is not caused by Islam. There are ethnic, sectarian, and personal factors. No purely Islamic causes are involved. Therefore, we should not view other Islamic movements from the Afghan perspective. We believe that the Islamic trend is the trend of the future, and that the Islamic ideology is the only ideology capable of giving our nation its true meaning and role in the face of the emerging major world blocs.

Says Oslo Accord 'Dead'

JN3001112495 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 30 Jan 95 p 5

[Interview with Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, by correspondents Shawqi Abu-Sha'irah and Yusuf Abu-Bakr in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-MAJD] Your heroic military operation has put the Zionist enemy and the promoters of the Oslo agreement in a real dilemma. This became evident in the rash statements by the leaders of the Zionist government and the confused condemnations by 'Arafat's self-rule authority. We know that this is not the first operation the mujahidin from the Islamic Jihad and Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] have carried out against the enemy following the implementation of the Oslo agreement in Gaza and Jericho. Is the strategic objective of the Bet Lid operation and other similar operations to foil the Oslo agreement?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The Oslo agreement, in practice, is dead. There have been new developments since it was signed. Through our operations, we want to sign its official death warrant and to end this unjust agreement. We also want to tell our nation that the door is open to struggle and jihad and that these breaches that take place on the Palestinian front and on other Arab fronts should be checked.

On the occasion of the heroic Bet Lid operation, we would like to reiterate that the main objective of the establishment of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine is to comprehensively confront the enemy. Armed struggle is the culmination of this comprehensive confrontation. This operation is part of our ongoing struggle in spite of our meager and limited resources. I would like to say that we are now in a race with what they call the peace process. We view it as an attempt to legalize the Zionist occupation of all of Palestine, to penetrate the Arab and Islamic countries, impose U.S.-Zionist hegemony on this region, and map out a new Middle East where the Zionist enemy will be the major and central power and where the historic role of countries like Syria, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, and Saudi Arabia will be canceled so that the Zionist role may prevail. The Zionist enemy wants relations among countries to be economic relations having nothing to do with ideologies, national conflicts, or the struggle of civilizations.

Therefore, we are in a race with this dangerous conspiracy of legalizing the occupation, hegemony, and normalization. We frankly say that we are doing our best to halt this course. We have become convinced that by escalating armed operations we will be able to check it. Our nation should wake up and confront this conspiracy from its roots.

Yes, these operations, particularly at this time, are part of a plan to foil this unholy peace which gives everything to the Israelis and nothing to our people.

[AL-MAJD] Responsible Israeli voices were raised following the operation calling for a suspension of the peace process with 'Arafat. Do you believe that more operations of this type could make the Israelis cancel their agreement with 'Arafat?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The stand of the Israeli right wing on the Oslo agreement is just part of the rivalry for power between the Likud and the Labor Party. Who says that there is one Israeli opposed to the Oslo agreement? The Israelis produced this agreement. Its text is a Zionist text and it is being interpreted in a Zionist manner. Likud leader Netanyahu has said more than once that if he assumes power he will not cancel the Oslo agreement. We must approach this agreement from a different angle than how it is portrayed in the media.

When the agreement was signed, more than half our people rejected it. The other part of our people were deceived for some time, believing the agreement was the first step to independence. Therefore, they remained silent and waited. What was the result? The overwhelming majority of our people now realize a few months after the conclusion of the agreement that it was a major development to liquidate the Palestinian cause and to eradicate the words of freedom and independence from our lexicon and lives.

The illusions of security and prosperity have completely subsided. Further security constraints have been imposed on our kinsfolk in the self- rule areas. As for the unchanging economic difficulties experienced by our people, they are abundant. All the pretexts and justifications promoted to peddle the Oslo accord have fallen. Now, the overwhelming majority of our people are opposed to the Oslo accord, as attested to by the massive demonstrations staged by tens of thousands of people from time to time, as happened in the funeral of Hani 'Abid, and on other occasions, such as the speech rally held by Hamas.

By contrast, the autonomy authority cannot muster over 2,000 or 3,000 supporters in any show of support. This is evidence that substantial changes have taken place within the hearts and minds of the Palestinian residents of the territories since the signing of the accord.

Besides, military action has escalated since the signing of the Oslo accord. It goes without saying that a certain sector of the people has observed a halt to such jihad and struggle. Who then is responsible for this escalation?

This means that supportive and living popular forces have joined military action and given fresh momentum to the fight against the occupiers. This also means that our people are not expressing their rejection of the occupation and the accord only through peaceful means, but also through the strongest means of rejection—namely, creative military action. This has caused the Zionists to forgo their happiness and jubilation about the Oslo accord, which they thought would rid them of Gaza's hell, the crack in the head, as they called it. They then thought the solution lay in handing over Gaza to Yasir 'Arafat so he might work as their proxy. They believed that this would usher in a new era of security and stability. However, they have discovered that this era has failed to materialize, and that they are now in trouble.

The entire Zionist entity is currently experiencing an impasse. The Zionists are now wondering: The Oslo accord was supposed to grant us everything. But, why is there a feeling of growing insecurity? Where is the problem?

Due to this impasse, you hear some Israelis, in moments of anger, calling for a halt to the negotiations. Nonetheless, they are aware that the only choice they have is to continue the negotiations, because halting them would engender further escalation and confrontations, and not vice versa. Moreover, the continuation of the negotiations would allow them to infiltrate into the region and impose their hegemony on it.

We are the only party whose interests and whose nation's interests lie in halting the negotiations, because they have become a farce that is taking place at the expense of our rights and our nation's interests.

[AL-MAJD] In his televised address to the Israelis on Monday, Rabin warned that Israel will retaliate against those who masterminded the Bet Lid operation, and against the Palestinian people's strugglers, who are opposed to the Oslo accord and determined to continue the military struggle. How do you expect Israel's reprisal to be, particularly since you realize that the Rabin government is experiencing a difficult domestic impasse that has been exacerbated by the recent heroic operation?

[Al-Shaqaqi] It seems that the Israelis have not thus far realized that we cherish death just as they cherish life, and that their killings and assassinations have only fuelled the revolution. This is the just cause of a wronged people, and of a nation that seeks to free itself from the control and domination of big powers, which have been going on for decades.

Rabin, who menaces and threatens, seems not to have noticed that the assassination of Hani 'Abid, an Islamic Jihad official and activist has made more young people ready for martyrdom and has made many join the Islamic Jihad's martyr groups.

Man's life is predestined. We will pursue our jihad and these threats will not dissuade us from proceeding with it. We find comfort in that jihad and revolution will continue under all circumstances. A just cause cannot lose, particulary if it is as sacred and lofty as the Palestinian cause, and when its people are as active as the Palestinian people.

Rabin always makes such threats. We say that if he carries out these threats, he will simply be committing another foolish action.

Rabin committed a foolish action when he deported four mujahidin more than two years ago. He committed a foolish action when he assassinated Hani 'Abid some three months ago. It is not far-fetched that he will commit other foolish actions which will only exacerbate his present dilemma. This dilemma is the natural result to be expected by any occupier who wages a losing battle on the strategic level because he is swimming against the tide of a just and sacred cause.

[AL-MAJD] But Rabin has a card in his hand, the 'Arafat card. He now tries to exploit it to serve his objective of quelling the Palestinian strugglers. Do you expect Rabin's pressures to succeed in making 'Arafat commit other stupidities and massacres against our people, and will this, as Rabin wants, ignite a civil war in Gaza?

[Al-Shaqaqi] We realized through our reading of the Oslo agreement and before it was implemented on the ground that the self-rule authority is an agent of the occupation, and that it is requested to carry out its instructions and protect the occupation and the settlements. The self-rule authority began to carry out these missions immediately upon arrival in Gaza Strip.

On many occasions, we did not dare to fire on the Israeli soldiers in Gaza because they were hiding behind the Palestinian police, and we do not want to strike the Palestinian police. This is one of the most important reasons why Israeli soldiers are not being daily killed in Gaza. Therefore, the 'Arafat authority is performing its role of protecting the Zionist army and the settlements, in facilitating the planting of agents in its security and nonsecurity agencies, and in pursuing and arresting the mujahidin. What is worse is that it committed a massacre like the Palestine mosque massacre on 18 November. In this massacre the agent had carried out his mission to the full.

I hope that 'Arafat who has committed many mistakes and sins against the Palestinian cause will be more clever and will not swallow the Israeli-U.S. bait and commit his last mistake. Any repressive measure 'Arafat might take at this stage will not be to his advantage and he will be the loser not because the Islamic Jihad will wage a military war against him but because since the massacre, the confrontation has become clearly defined; the Palestinian masses are confronting a corrupt authority which has become devoid of any content and which is completely subservient to the occupation. 'Arafat's authority was miraculously saved after the massacre because the influential opposition parties had no political decision to topple this authority although the people moved in this direction on the day the massacre was committed and during the following three days. 'Arafat's authority was completely absent in the Gaza Strip during that time. 'Arafat realizes he cannot confront the masses, but if he is blinded by the U.S. and Zionist pressures, then this could be his last mistake.

However, I rule out the possibility of a Palestinian civil war in the traditional sense of the word. In Palestine in general, and the Gaza Strip in particular, there is racial, religious, and sectarian cohesion and the families are intermingled. In the same family, you will see all colors of the political spectrum. Therefore, a civil war of the Lebanese or Afghan type is not possible in my view. However, there may be certain mistakes, vices, and massacres like the Filastin Mosque massacre, and there may even be limited clashes. This will not be due to our decision and position, but because of the nature of the authority and the crisis it is facing and its dreadful readiness to commit mistakes.

[AL-MAJD] Washington has protested to Damascus over your presence in Syria. The Syrian reply to this protest was clear. It came in a hint from Minister Faruq Al-Shar' who said that the Israelis bear the responsibility because of their refusal to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Do you expect extra U.S. pressure on Damascus because of your presence and the presence in Damascus of other Palestinian nationalistic forces, which reject the Oslo Agreement?

[Al-Shaqaqi] I think that in Syria, they know that I personally was deported from my country on the orders of Yitzhaq Rabin himself when he was minister of war. They also know that we send from Damascus neither weapons nor fighters. They always announce that the Palestinian people inside Palestine have the right to struggle against, and resist occupation as guaranteed by the international norms and laws. We are basically present inside Palestine and preparations for any military action take place inside Palestine. The Arab states, however, are open to anyone who passes through them. Our role in Syria and other countries is no more than a political and information role. Our brothers inside take their weapons from the hands of the Zionist soldiers. All of our people inside are eager to fight against suppression and injustice to which they are subjected. Therefore, I see no reason for U.S. pressure against Syria, except maybe in an attempt to appease Israel and the Jewish voters in the U.S. elections.

On the other hand, I think that such heroic jihad operations strengthen the morale of all faithful people, the strong and the weak, the hesitant and the determined. Only those for whom the enemy has become their first and last choice are against this action. However, our people on the one hand and Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic organizations and parties, and several states, on the other, believe this action constitutes a new leverage for the popular and official confrontation forces.

Whoever observes the U.S. and Israeli arrogance in the past few months must realize this fact. Only yesterday, Pelletreau was trying to force Husni Mubarak, the Americans' friend, to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty regardless of the position of Israel, which stockpiles nuclear weapons. This is the kind of arrogance and hegemony which the United States is trying to impose on its friends before its enemies.

All these people must see in the military actions that have taken place an added force to their effort in the battle, which everyone now realizes is going to be between the entire nation and the western-Zionist alliance.

Donor Countries Hold First Meeting in Gaza

TA3101104095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] More than 30 representatives of donor countries met in Gaza City yesterday for the first official donor's conference there since the Palestinian Authority [PA] took charge.

The two-day conference of the Local Aid Coordination Committee (LACC) reviewed the problems of last year's development effort and discussed how to improve it this year, an aide to Terje Larsen, the UN special coordinator, said.

Larsen and Odin Knutsen, the resident World Bank representative, chaired the session. The decision to hold the conference in Gaza was taken at the Brussels meeting of donor states in November, when the LACC was established.

PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat briefly attended the meeting at the al-Shawwa Cultural Center, and called on donors to accelerate aid because of the closure. A month ago he claimed that less than 10 percent of the promised funds had arrived.

The donor states have been demanding better accounting procedures before they hand over money. A PA committee is currently examining the issue.

The Brussels conference promised $120 million in emergency funds to the PA but fell far short. The Palestinians received $64 million originally promised for 1994, PA spokesman Nabil Abu-Rudaynah said yesterday.

Israelis who were supposed to be at the conference did not attend yesterday, but were expected today.

The closure and the upswing in terror attacks against Israel were uppermost in everyone's mind yesterday, with speakers warning that both were damaging to the peace process.

$695 Million Approved for PA

JN3101203895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Jan 95

[Report by Salim al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] The meetings between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and representatives of the donor states ended today. The meetings, which lasted two days, were held at the al-Shawwa Cultural Center in Gaza. The participants discussed ways of supporting the PA. Representatives of the donor states agreed to continue cooperation and to concentrate on implementing short-term projects which will curb unemployment in the PA area.

The conferees also decided to pay $25 million to implement projects which will employ more Palestinian workers this year; and $170 million to implement projects agreed on in these meetings. The conferees also decided to pay $500 million, which they decided to pay last year, to set up infrastructure, health, and education projects and to concentrate on investment.

Terje Larsen, representative of the United Nations to the PA, met with President Yasir 'Arafat following the meetings. Larsen described the meetings as fruitful and constructive. He said: We, in addition to the World Bank and the donor states, can move together. He considered this as a big success.

The World Bank representative noted that the problem lies in the fact that there are no institutions in the PA areas.

Palestinian Industry, Dependence on Israel Noted

JN2901080995 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Jan 95 p 9

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Khattab Salman—all figures as published]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Raw materials for the industrial sector in Gaza and the West Bank are imported largely from Israel, and most of the production is marketed in Israel, according to a study conducted by the Centre for Jewish-Arab Economic Development.

The study [which was] conducted last year and covered every Palestinian industrial installation with more than 15 employees, indicated that 78 per cent of the installations are industrial, 13 per cent are in foodstuff manufacturing, one per cent agricultural, and nine per cent are of other specialities.

The study reported that 59 per cent of the raw materials needed for Palestinian industries are imported from Israel, 16.4 per cent from abroad, and 24.6 per cent are available locally. At the same time 35 per cent of Palestinian producers market an average of 2.5 per cent of their production in Israel, and that 50 per cent are dependent mainly on the Israeli market.

The study, which explored the impact of the interim period on Palestinian industries, showed that currently only 11.8 per cent of these industries are operating with 90-100 per cent of their full capacity—2.6 per cent with 80-90 per cent, and 23.1 per cent with less than 50 per cent of their full capacity.

The study explained that these low levels of production are due to huge competition because of similar products.

According to the study, the machinery of these industries are 92.3 per cent imported from abroad, 5.6 per cent from Israel and one per cent are manufactured locally in Gaza and the West Bank. The industrial installations are 52 per cent privately/individually owned, 31 per cent goes in partnership of two or three owners, and 17 per cent are corporated.

The major problems facing Palestinian industries, according to the study, are capitals, especially fixed expenses, then comes raw materials and marketing. The study also indicated that the cost of production in the West Bank is lower than that in Israel, but it is even lower in Gaza than the West Bank.

Concerning anticipated growth, the study estimated that the rate would reach 65 per cent in the first year, 16 per cent in the second, and 10 per cent in the third year.

69.2 per cent Palestinian industrialists expected positive impacts if a free zone was established, 75.9 per cent were ready to cooperate with Israeli companies through common marketing, subcontracting and joint ventures. Currently 52.8 per cent of Palestinian producers are subcontracting with Israeli producers.

PNC Speaker on Conditions for Charter Amendment

TA3101090795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has presented conditions for convening the PNC in order to revoke the clauses in the Palestinian Charter calling for Israel's destruction.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that al-Za'nun, speaking at a rally in Nabulus yesterday, said that the PNC will convene only after elections are held for the autonomy council, all Palestinian security prisoners are released, and all PNC members opposed to the Oslo agreement are given permission to live in the territories.

PA-Appointed Muslim Figures Meet in Jerusalem

TA3101111695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Jan 95 p 4

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ignoring the ban on Palestinian Authority [PA] activity in Jerusalem, the PA-appointed mufti and leading Moslem religious leaders met in the Old City last night to declare the start of Ramadan.

The Jordanian-appointed mufti, who is recognized by Israel and traditionally announces the start of Ramadan, was not present. Instead, Mufti Akram Sabri oversaw the proceedings, at the Waqf offices just outside the Temple Mount.

The religious leaders determined Ramadan would start today, according to a spotting of the moon and decisions of neighboring countries.

Most of the religious leaders at the meeting were from the administered territories. A civil administration spokeswoman said they did not have permits to be in the city.

Jerusalem police officers, however, sat outside the building and did not act to halt the meeting.

"I am the mufti, appointed by the Palestinian Authority, of all the Palestinian people, in Jerusalem, in the West Bank, Gaza, and in Israel," Sabri told the THE JERUSALEM POST.

"There is no one who questions my authority," Sabri added.

Teachers Say Closure Paralyzes Education System

TA3101115195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Jan 95 p 4

[Report by Bill Hutman and Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The closure of the territories has shut down dozens of Arab schools in Jerusalem, as most of their teachers are living in the areas and are not allowed into the city, the Palestinian Teachers Union said yesterday.

"The education system has been thoroughly paralyzed," the union said, in a statement released after a protest meeting at Orient House, the PLO headquarters in the capital.

Union spokesman Samir Jundi said that some 25,000 pupils attended the private schools, which are not operating. Public schools employ mostly teachers with Jerusalem identity cards and are not affected by the closure.

"We call upon all peace-loving forces, international organizations... for immediate action to lift this abominable siege," the union said.

Jundi said that the union plans a series of protests this week to draw attention to the problem.

"We are sorry for what happened at Bet Lid, but all Palestinians should not be punished for what happened," Jundi said. [passage omitted]

Commentary: Israeli Measures Not To Force PA's Hand

JN2901201995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1545 GMT 29 Jan 95

[Commentary: "Violence Kills Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The conflagration in the political and security conditions obliges the Israeli Government to lift the military cordon imposed on our people in the West Bank and resume the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. This spate of hot developments in the absence of progress in the peace march warns of further ruin and destruction. The Rabin government would be mistaken in its evaluation of things if it believes that by its closures and by freezing the peace march it will force the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] to do its bidding. Over the past few decades, the occupation authorities have tried various forms of repression to impose submission on the Palestinian people and their national leadership only to reap frustration and failure. Meanwhile, the Palestinian struggle continued against the occupation and for the sake of freedom and independence.

Now that the Palestinians have tasted freedom despite the restrictions that have been besetting the PNA areas, they will rise to resist any attempts to maintain the occupation regardless of the nature of these attempts. If the Rabin government wants to realize security and stability, the only path for it to pursue is the path of peace. It should increase the momentum of peace on the Palestinian track. This is the only path that would lead to uprooting violence. The path of random arrests, collective punishment, and giving the settlers a free hand will not guarantee the Rabin government's success in the coming elections. This result will not change even if the government places itself in the hands of the hardline extremists and the members of the settlements' council who are incessantly blackmailing the government, believing that the Rabin government's hands are tied, that it is unable to confront the new developments on the settlement front.

Yesterday, the settlers open fired near the (Ma'ale 'Amus) against Palestinian crowds that included some members of the Israeli Peace Now Movement. The only thing that the Israeli forces did was to arrest some Palestinians who committed no sin except their attempt to defend their land.

The settlers' usurpation of new land means that the Palestinian protests will sooner or later develop into a new intifadah. When this happens, the peace process will go into oblivion. This is what the settlers are doing to undermine the Oslo agreement or at least halt the implementation of the redeployment of the Israeli Army and the holding of the Palestinian legislative elections.

The question that springs to the mind is: Is this the aim of the Israeli Government? Rabin should provide a quick answer before it is too late.

Algeria

Zeroual Condemns 'Inhuman' Algiers Car Bombing

LD3101132395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Head of State Liamine Zeroual returned to Algiers this morning following a one-day work and inspection visit to Sidi Bel Abbes Province. [passage omitted]

At the airport's VIP lounge, the head of state made a statement to the press in which he said that the inhuman operation which targeted innocent citizens—men, women, and children—in the capital yesterday took place on the eve of the Algerian people's preparation to receive the blessed month of Ramadan. This is evidence that those mercenary, treacherous criminals only aim at destroying Algeria, and eliminating the Algerian people, he said. Everyone knows that the Algerian people and state will not yield to barbarism.

Operations like these make us stronger and more determined to continue our struggle against those beasts until we have eliminated them from our society, he declared. We shall continue to foil the maneuvers which are aimed at the subjugation of Algeria.

The head of state said: After this hideous, terrible crime, I would like to offer consolation to ourselves, to the victims' families, and to all the Algerian people, and tell them that we will prevail. Algeria has prevailed, thanks to its faithful children, and its great people.

Opposition Condemns Bombing

NC0102102395 Paris AFP in English 0940 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Feb 1 (AFP)—A leader of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), has condemned the car bomb attack which left 42 dead and 286 injured in central Algiers on Monday [30 January], the independent daily LA TRIBUNE reported Wednesday.

Two other opposition movements on Wednesday also denounced the attack, for which responsibility has not yet been claimed.

Algerians were due to observe five minutes' silence in memory of the victims at 1.00 p.m. (1200 GMT) Wednesday, during which sirens will be sounded. The call was issued jointly by the government and the trade union federation and employers' federation during negotiations Tuesday.

"Ali Djeddi said he was revolted by this attack that nobody can understand," the TRIBUNE said, adding that the FIS official had called for a "thorough investigation to establish everyone's responsibilities before God and the people".

The paper said that as Djeddi enjoyed the confidence of all the FIS leadership and in particular of its president Abassi Madani, his statement could be seen as the movement's official stance on the matter.

Djeddi, who was sentenced to four years' prison by a military court in Blida and detained with six other FIS leaders, including Madani and his deputy Ali Belhadj, was freed in February last year. Madani and Belhadj were freed last September but placed under house arrest.

The Socialist Forces Front (FFS), led by Hocine Ait Ahmed, and the Islamic Society Movement (MSI-Hamas) both denounced the attack in communiques which reached AFP on Wednesday.

The FFS called the attack "an odious crime" and "a crime against humanity" and said the authorities had proved themselves incapable of ensuring the safety of citizens and were therefore "entirely responsible for this tragic event".

The government has blamed the huge car-bomb attack, which destroyed the main police headquarters and wrecked other buildings on Islamic extremists who have been seeking to topple it for three years.

Algeria's guerrilla war, which has claimed at least 20,000 lives, began after the military intervened in January 1992 to cancel the second round of general elections the subsequently outlawed FIS was poised to win.

For its part, Hamas denounced "those who by their behaviour, silence and direct or indirect support, contribute to the deterioration of the situation to the detriment of defenceless innocent people".

"The search for a peaceful solution to save lives and property is more and more necessary," Hamas said, adding that it was to be found "in serious dialogue and reconciliation with the participation of all."

The FFS was a signatory, together with some other secular opposition parties and the FIS of last month's Rome manifesto, which called on the military-backed secular government to open dialogue with the FIS.

Hamas, which took part in a first meeting in Rome in November which led to the January talks and the so-called "national contract", did not attend the second.

The Rome forum was hosted by a Roman Catholic community which played a major part in bringing about the pact to end Mozambique's civil war. But the Algiers government described the conference as interference in its affairs.

Situation Moving Toward 'Further Escalation'

MM3101165695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 31 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "38 Dead, 250 Wounded in Explosion That Shook Algeria"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Algeria, AL-HAYAH—The situation in Algeria has moved toward further escalation as a result of the authorities' refusal to hold a dialogue with opposition parties over the "national contract" reached at the "Rome-2 seminar." Political and security indications of this have begun to emerge. The regime has renewed its commitment to holding presidential elections next summer, ignoring the objection of most parties. It has also continued its large-scale security campaign designed to "eradicate" armed groups. [passage omitted]

Asked about the presidency's refusal to receive an opposition delegation headed by him, Shaykh Abdallah Djaballah [leader of the Algerian Islamic al-Nahdah Movement] told AL-HAYAH: "The opposition has so far offered the authorities three opportunities to work to resolve the country's crisis. The first was the national contract, which contains a realistic and sound view for tackling the crisis. The second was the formation of a delegation from the parties to meet with the head of state to deliver to him the text of the contract and maybe to discuss its content with him. As for the third, it is the opposition's decision to leave the door open despite the authorities' refusal to meet with us." He went on: "We hope that the authorities will handle this issue well for the sake of Algeria and public welfare."

Asked about the text of the "advisory memorandum" concerning the elections, which the authorities have handed to the parties, he said: "We have not yet decided to reply to the memorandum. However, we are for adhering to what is mentioned in the national contract. Because we believe that the authorities' attitude is going to lead us to an impasse and to create difficulties and tragedies. And even if a reply is issued (to the memorandum), it will not deviate from the foundation of the national contract."

He reiterated his commitment to a dialogue that includes "all components of the political society—official and opposition." He said that any serious dialogue should not exclude the authorities or the Islamic Front.

Algerian political sources have told AL-HAYAH that the authorities' refusal to hold a dialogue with the opposition increases their isolation on the local scene. The sources pointed out that the three fronts—the Islamic Front, the National Liberation Front, and the Socialist Forces Front—are now in one trench against the authorities. The sources went on to say that this front [the three fronts] enjoys great support among the people. Because in the canceled legislative elections 3.26 million voters voted for the Salvation Front, 1.6 million voted for the Liberation Front, and 500,000 voted for the Socialist Forces Front. The sources added that it is amazing for the authorities to insist on holding presidential elections despite the refusal of the three fronts—which enjoy clear popular support—to participate in them. [passage omitted]

Security Services Say 28 'Terrorists' Killed

LD3101194695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services announced today that the security forces in the last 48 hours managed to kill in a number of streets in Algiers 15 terrorists, among whom were the murderers of the late Salah Nour, Transitional National Council member.

The security services statement added that the security forces also managed to kill 13 terrorists in a number of the regions of the country. During these operations, they recovered a quantity of arms.

Sifi on Lack of Results in Economic Reforms

LD3101162995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The head of government, Mokdad Sifi, has sent a memorandum to members of the government, provincial governors, and directors of contribution funds concerning the plan to reform public economic enterprises.

According to the memorandum, expected results have not been achieved, despite the significant financial cover provided for the enterprises in the framework of the cleaning-up process.

The memorandum said that the state would continue the process and had already allocated a financial cover of 148.5 billion dinars.

The practical steps mentioned in the memorandum focused on the provision and setting up of all the arrangements and machinery required for improving the rate of production and productivity and the use of new revenues more effectively. [passage omitted]

'Sources': No Anti-Terrorism Help From Israel

LD3101193995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources close to the Foreign Ministry have dismissed reports that say that Algeria put forward to Israel proposals on cooperation in combating terrorism. The same sources say the aim behind these reports is a maneuver to inflict harm on Algeria in its work to establish security and defend democracy.

Egypt

Mubarak Invites King, 'Arafat, Rabin to Summit

NC0102102795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today invited King Husayn of Jordan, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to a four-way summit in Cairo on Thursday [2 February].

Musa said in a statement following President Mubarak's meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today that the summit will evaluate the Middle East situation, especially regarding the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating track, and try to boost the peace process and assess the problems it is facing.

He said the foreign ministers of the four countries will attend the summit.

Israeli Envoy on Upcoming Peres Talks in Cairo

NC3101142295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—Israel's Ambassador in Cairo David Sultan has stated the importance of the central and major role Egypt plays in the peace process. He said Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to Cairo tomorrow falls within this framework.

The Israeli ambassador said in a statement today that Peres will basically discuss with President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa the obstacles to the peace talks on the Palestinian track, particularly after the Netanya bombing in Tel Aviv. They will also discuss the peace process on the Syrian track.

On whether Egyptian-Israeli negotiations tomorrow will address the issue of renewing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Ambassador Sultan said the issue will be discussed, although Peres' talks will focus primarily on the peace process on the Palestinian and Syrian tracks.

Musa on Upcoming Talks

NC3101180995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak will receive Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on 1 February.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated today that during the meeting Egypt will assert its firm stance on the peace process and the current situation of this peace process, which is considered a sensitive and crucial situation.

He said that the siege Israel has imposed on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be among the topics the Egyptian-Israeli talks will address. He pointed out that this matter is the focal point of discussions Egypt is holding with the Israeli side.

Foreign Minister Musa said he does not believe that the peace process has reached a dead end or a point of no return, but it has reached a crucial stage. He warned that if things continue this way they could actually have a negative influence on peace; in other words it will be difficult to make progress.

The foreign minister affirmed that efforts are continuing and that extensive Egyptian efforts are being exerted in this direction. He added that Egypt will continue its efforts to deal with the current impasse in the peace process.

Musa noted that currently, there is a stage of extensive contacts the objective of which is to rescue the peace process. He said: We must be optimistic about the peace process, even if our optimism is now less than it previously was. He said this is due to reasons that Egypt previously explained and clarified.

On the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, 'Amr Musa said that there are extensive and continuous contacts on this matter, and that this is a crucial and important issue. He said the Egyptian stand on this matter is defined and firm. It cannot be affected by the opinions of others who do not have a feel for the dangerous situation in the region, as we in Egypt do.

He added that the Arab countries hold the same opinion and have the same stand as Egypt. Egypt wants to rectify security matters in the region and this applies to the Arab countries, Israel, and other countries in the region.

He clarified that this subject will be among the topics the Arab League Council will discuss during its 15 March meeting.

'Amr Musa denied reports circulating lately that a ranking Egyptian official will travel to Baghdad soon as part of the efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere. He also denied reports that emerged in Sudan about contacts holding an Egyptian-Sudanese summit. He said that these reports are not true.

Musa noted that the Damascus Declaration countries' foreign ministers, that is the six Gulf countries, Egypt, and Syria, will discuss during their Cairo meetings on Sunday, 5 February, the current situation regarding cooperation between the Declaration's countries, and the extent of the participation of these countries toward reforming the situation in the Arab world and bolstering cooperation among its countries.

'Amr Musa pointed out that a meeting will take place in Cairo on Saturday, 4 February, among the foreign ministers of Egypt, Jordan, and Palestine to discuss the problem of the 1967 Palestinian refugees.

He clarified that during the meeting, they will discuss how these refugees will be repatriated and how their lives will be secured. In this regard, he pointed out that a meeting will take place among the foreign ministers of Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, and Israel at the end of February to discuss the return of the refugees to their homes.

Interior Minister Says Terrorism 'Contained'

NC3101173395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 31 Jan (MENA)—Egypt's Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has affirmed that in fact, "the phenomenon of terrorism in Egypt has been contained and cut to size." Around 96 percent of all defendants in terrorism cases have been arrested, the highest percentage in the world. In addition, scores of terrorist attempts have been thwarted as part of the "protective security" policy.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti magazine AL-YAQAZAH to be published in its issue for Friday, 3 February, al-Alfi said that the countries of the world have praised the magnificent efforts of the Egyptian security departments. There are many countries that have asked for an exchange of information to learn about Egypt's expertise in this field, he said.

He expressed his belief that the final eradication of terrorism requires united efforts from all Arab and international sides, particularly since it has been proven that there are many international sides financing, training, organizing, and mobilizing the men who carry out such acts.

In his interview with the Kuwaiti magazine AL-YAQAZAH, Hasan al- Alfi stressed that the Egyptian security forces are in control of the situation, and things will stay this way so long as they are obtaining detailed information. He affirmed that things in general are reassuring, thanks to the achievements of the police force.

He said that terrorism targets all the Arab countries. Its objective is to hamper development and strike at the economy. He confirmed the need for the countries in the Arab region to exchange information and communications to monitor and track down the leaders of terrorism and expropriate their funds.

The Egyptian interior minister added that the ministry knows exactly where the masterminds of terrorism are, who shares the same goals with them abroad, and their weekly and monthly meetings, the objective of which is to solicit more contributions and funding. All these meetings are being monitored.

Mr. Hasan al-Alfi affirmed that the huge efforts the police are exerting to confront terrorism have not and will not affect the other duties of the Interior Ministry. He clarified that all security problems are being dealt with equally. Crime of all forms is also being confronted, whether against state, economic, or social security.

AL-AHRAM on U.S. Assets-Freezing Decision

NC0102074095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper says U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision to freeze the assets of five Egyptian terrorist leaders in the United States proves that Egypt is fighting professional terrorists who have assets in foreign banks and who have set up planning, arranging, and financing networks through current accounts in banks here and there.

In its editorial on 31 January, the paper notes that Egypt has long realized the magnitude and dimensions of this hazard, not only for Egypt but also for countries where these terrorists live and work.

The paper says Egypt warned the United States at a very early date and is still warning the European countries of the danger of opening up their territories to groups that collect funds from simple people there under the guise of charity work. The Americans, the paper adds, were not convinced until powerful explosions shook New York's World Trade Center and shocked the American society from top to bottom.

The paper emphasizes that Egypt's accurate assessment of the situation, along with the efforts of security personnel and their cooperation with the people, will help it win the battle.

Editor Views Clinton Asset-Freezing Decision

NC3101140495 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 28 Jan 95 pp 1, 8

["The Political Stance" column by Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah: "The March of the Ant"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision to freeze the assets of groups and individuals suspected of practicing terrorism has resounded powerfully everywhere, especially after the names of the people and groups involved were published. The Egyptian public was surprised to learn that they include Egyptians, some of them in prisons and others fugitives from justice. Washington made sure that these Egyptian terrorists had assets in American banks!

Everyone understands the timing of the decision. It followed last week's suicide attack in which Israelis were killed and wounded. This means that the attack was the only thing that made the U.S. Administration suddenly sense the danger of blind terrorism to the security and stability of the new world it promises these days!

For years, successive American Administrations have been heeding the advice of their intelligence services—that the United States should, as secretly as possible, deal with the "Islamic" groups that enjoy, as these services claim, popularity in their countries. The advice emphasizes that those groups are moving along the same road that Khomeyni's revolution in Iran took, a road that ultimately enabled Khomeyni to overthrow the shah, seize power, and proclaim the "Islamic" Republic. The United States supported the shah until the last day of his rule, hoping he would stand up to Khomeyni and oppress his revolution. This is why strong hostility toward the United States was the first slogan raised by the Iranian revolution despite the many unsuccessful attempts by the United States to win the friendship of the new ayatollahs in Tehran, notably its immediate disavowal of its former friend and ally, the shah, as soon as he was expelled from Tehran!

The intelligence services' advice calls on the U.S. Administration not to repeat this mistake and stresses the need for constant contacts with the Islamic groups that seek to repeat the Iranian experience in their own countries. This would guarantee Washington the friendship of those groups if they seize power!

Developments afterward showed that successive U.S. Administrations were anxious to follow the "advice" and find a link with the terrorist groups that were established in some Arab countries, such as Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, and others. American contacts with these groups were at first shy and secret but the Americans soon abandoned this method and began open contacts, not even feeling embarrassed in front of the legitimate governments of those countries. American territory became a paradise for the symbols and leaders of those groups, who ran for their lives from their countries. They found full care and sponsorship in the United States to continue their "jihad" from there and to plan and spread terrorism in their own countries.

It is extremely difficult for ordinary visitors and tourists to get entry visas to the United States but these visas are given with unprecedented ease to terrorists and killers of innocent people as long as there is any chance for them to jump into power, if not today, then tomorrow or the day after!

When someone seems astonished by this strange American conduct, the ready answer is: "The United States is a democratic country that respects human rights and provides shelter to anybody seeking political asylum if his life in his own country is threatened."

No one believes this claim. Political asylum is given only to politicians who use words, ideas, and party programs to oppose the ruling regime that rejects opinions that oppose it and thus compels these opponents to leave their country out of fear for their lives. The U.S. Administration does not abide by this internationally recognized principle. It refuses—as usual—to grant political asylum to peaceful political opponents, because they pose no threat to the ruling regimes in their countries. But the United States rushes to grant this right to those it thinks enjoy the "popularity" that could bring them to power. It does not matter if this person is a terrorist who kills innocent people or plans these ugly crimes within his country before he flees abroad.

Hundreds of these people of various nationalities have fled from justice in their countries and obtained—very easily—visas to enter the biggest and strongest state in the world, which is described by its citizens as "more democratic and more respectful of human rights."

The list is long and is headed by "Algeria's mujahidin" and "Egypt's mujahidin." These "mujahidin" have achieved full freedom inside the United States, something that is impossible for them to obtain in any other democratic country that is committed to the rights and duties of those granted the internationally recognized right to political asylum.

We have seen how the CIA circumvented U.S. immigration laws and granted terrorist 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman a visa to enter the United States. The U.S. Embassy in Cairo denied it granted the visa and claimed it was the embassy in Khartoum that issued it and that "computer data" did not include the criminal record of 'Abd-al-Rahman! When Egypt asked the United States to rectify this "unintentional error" caused by the "computer" and to extradite this terrorist so that he could be tried in Egyptian courts for his crimes, their reply was evasive. They asked Egypt to send the evidence proving that this "peaceful" and "blind" shaykh committed these ugly crimes, which the United States could study, examine, and scrutinize before answering the Egyptian demand.

We have seen how the "peaceful" and "blind" shaykh—according to the Americans' description—became one of the brightest stars in and around the state of New York. The media—television first, then newspapers—sought to meet and interview him for whatever reason so he could explain the democratic system he will abide by when the Egyptian people carry him on their shoulders to the Egyptian throne, in an imitation of the Khomeyni way. Whenever the international news agencies carried any political, economic, agricultural, religious, security, or tourism report about Egypt, the cameras rushed to record the views and comments of this shaykh, who is dreaming of Egypt's throne.

Egypt ignored this odd behavior by a country that stresses it is the friend of the Egyptian people and says that strong ties bind that country to Egypt's political leadership. This disregard was not a sign of weakness. Egypt has mocked what this fugitive was saying in a naive attempt to cover up his past and present, which are immersed in crimes and schemes to kill and terrorize innocent people. It was as if the Egyptians were sardonically telling the Americans: "Good luck with your crafty political shaykh. He could be the man best qualified to nominate himself for the coming U.S. Presidential elections."

American provocation of Egypt increased daily. Whenever the U.S. Administration invited President Mubarak to visit Washington—officially or semi-officially—the U.S. media rushed to publish and broadcast fiery statements by the "peaceful" shaykh calling on the American people to prevent this visit at the request of the Egyptian people, who believe that only 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman can convey the message to the U.S. Administration and people. When that "advice" failed and President Mubarak began his Washington visit, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman was the happiest man in the world, because the few days that President Mubarak spent in the United States were a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the shaykh—dreaming of Egypt's throne—to hold news conferences and comment on every word uttered by President Mubarak to the U.S. media about the visit, the reasons for it, and its results.

The Egyptians could have continued to ridicule the naivete of the United States for embracing the fugitive from justice and the killer of innocents. But information obtained by the Egyptian leadership indicated that this shaykh, after failing to achieve his objectives in Egypt, decided to transfer his terrorism and crimes to the United States, which sheltered and sponsored him! Egypt conveyed the information to the United States but Washington did not believe it at first and thought that Egypt wanted to trick it into handing over 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman! The American response to Egypt's information was lukewarm and silly! It is not possible, the U.S. Administration thought, for Egypt to uncover the details of this "alleged" scheme while the American security services, which are said to be able to hear the march of an ant, not only in the United States, but anywhere, knew nothing about it!

Soon afterward the huge World Trade Center in the heart of New York was bombed. Initial American investigations showed no link between the bombing and their peaceful and dignified shaykh. But information and evidence proving this link was soon gathered, forcing the American security services, which hear and follow the march of ants above and below ground, to admit their failure and mistake. They arrested the peaceful and dignified shaykh, who is now standing trial after a long time in prison!

If the United States was compelled to imprison and try the shaykh, a man it imagined could sit on Egypt's throne, it failed to reconsider its policy and its commitment to the advice of its intelligence services in dealing with the groups that hide behind Islam in some Middle Eastern countries. The American security services pursued only a few of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's aides, depriving them of free contacts and movement. No security or preventive measure was taken against other groups. There are many examples:

There are many offices in the United States established by Algerian groups. No crime against innocents in Algeria is left without these groups rushing to support it and condemn the legitimate government in Algeria! The same media coverage enjoyed by Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman before his imprisonment and trial is now being enjoyed by the symbols of Algerian terrorism in Washington, New York, and other states!

There are even more offices run by terrorism's symbols with Egyptian nationality. These people are creating a big fuss inside the United States, lamenting the fate of their shaykh, 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. Under the pretext that they have no link with the shaykh, no one touched them and no ban was imposed on what they might say in a democratic country that is eager to listen to every view.

Then we find that this same democratic U.S. Administration, which respects opposing views, refuses to grant entry visas to the opponents of Khomeyni's Iranian Republic. These opponents are being pursued by Tehran's killers inside the country; they forced them to leave Iran and fight its rulers from across the border. The same applies to the opponents of the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime in Sudan. The U.S. Administration refused to grant some Sudanese oppositionists visas to enter "the paradise of democracy on earth" and made it a condition for others not to harm the regime in Sudan or engage in any political or hostile activity against the Khartoum executioners. Otherwise, their residencies would be withdrawn and they would soon be expelled!

I find no justification for this discrimination other than that the U.S. Administration is still committed to the security advice that Iran's experience can be repeated in most—if not all—the Arab countries in the Middle East and, consequently, the United States should not lose the friendship and cooperation of the future rulers! In keeping with this opportunistic logic, it is not in the interest of the United States to shelter the opponents of the rulers in Tehran or Khartoum. Those rulers began their march through the same groups that raise the banner of Islam! It is true that relations between the United States and both Iran and Sudan are bad, but appearances can be deceiving!

The rulers of Iran are extremely happy with this position. The ostensible hostility between Tehran and Washington portrays the ayatollahs as the eternal adversary of the United States, and this allows the ayatollahs to gain some popularity here and there. And the American Administration's eagerness not to annoy Iran's rulers and its rejection of any Iranian opposition activity in the United States protect those rulers from the opposition, weaken opposition forces, and fragment their power.

There is no problem if relations between Tehran and Washington sour, suddenly, which recently occurred due to the start of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's trial. In its latest issue, AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI reported that the chief of Iranian intelligence held a meeting in which representatives of extremist organizations and Islamic groups in the Islamic world, like the Islamic Group in Egypt, participated. The Iranian intelligence chief told this expanded meeting:

"The U.S. Administration has been informed that Iran will not stand with its hands tied on the 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman issue! We (the Iranians) will watch the next U.S. move very closely. If Washington refuses to hand over 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman to Egypt as punishment for the charges brought against him this will mean that the United States is committed to not angering us and is yielding to our threats. If it decides to punish him or to hand him over to Egypt, we will show them what the international Islamic revolution can do."

Some may ask if there is a relationship between Iran and the Egyptian terrorist shaykh, who is now standing trial in a New York court, and wonder why Iran is threatening to take revenge and to wage war against the biggest and strongest country. We hear the same question from those who defend the rulers of Tehran and who volunteer to deny Iran's link with terrorist operations in Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Morocco, and others on a long list of countries.

It is funny that the U.S. Administration itself was, until very recently, at the head of those who raised these questions and at the same time defended Iran and denied its link with what is happening in the Arab countries, despite those countries collecting evidence and confessions clearly condemning Iran for planning and financing terrorism!

The American position changed a few days ago. We were surprised to hear President Clinton announcing his "historic" decision before the entire world, freezing the assets of 12 terrorist organizations, most of which could not have emerged and engaged in activity without Iranian planning and funding. The decision also freezes the assets of many people whose aides and followers brag about their clean actions, patriotism, asceticism, and the paradise they bought in advance through their good intentions and support for the poor and the needy!

Who could have believed that the five lords of terrorism—'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, Ayman al-Zawahiri, 'Abbud al-Zumur, Tal'at Fu'ad Musallam, and Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli, all with Egyptian nationality—had current accounts (in American banks that are run by Christians and Jews) and received interest, something they deny others the right to receive?

What is more important is this question, which I pose to the naive ones who were deceived by those devils, a question I hope to hear answered from the American Administration, which has blind confidence in its intelligence services that can hear the march of ants:

"Most, if not all, of those people whose assets and interests in American banks you decided to freeze were proven to have been involved in terrorist operations and crimes of killing innocent individuals or groups or opponents. Some of them were arrested and imprisoned and some fled to save themselves before they were reached by the grip of justice in their countries. Some of them came to the United States as poor refugees. Have all these facts and others been unknown to those who monitor the march of ants? Why does this courageous yet very late decision by the U.S. President against terrorism and its symbols come at this particular time?"

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Gabonese Message of Support

LD3101145595 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The brother leader of the revolution has received a personal envoy from Gabonese President Omar Bongo, who is regarded as one of the most prominent leaders in the African continent.

The Gabonese president's personal envoy delivered a letter to the brother leader of the revolution which expressed the support of the Gabonese president and people for the Great Jamahiriyah in its standing up to the unjust measures imposed on it. The letter also acquainted the Libyan Arab people with the efforts being made by African leaders to resolve the so-called Lockerbie crisis. [passage omitted]

DPRK Ambassador Reaffirms 'Full Solidarity'

LD3001202495 Tripoli JANA in English 1746 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, A'ina al-Nar [Jan] 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The ambassador of Northern Korea to the Great Jamahiriyah has confirmed the depth and strength of friendly cooperative relationships between the Great Jamahiriyah and Northern Korea. He also reaffirmed the full Korean solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah against the unfair sanctions imposed by the Western states through the so-called Security Council.

In a statement to the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY, the Korean ambassador confirmed that the new document recently published in respect of the so-called Lockerbie case, which vindicated the two accused in this case is the best evidence that American allegations have no foundation and are nothing but lies.

The ambassador said that America already knows that Libya has no involvement with this case, but it uses the case for political reasons to silence any voice that rejects American domination. This fact will remain quite obvious and no one will cover it and that the Arab Libyan people will inevitably triumph and the whole world will know that American allegations are mere lies.

The Korean ambassador said that when Korea was facing a difficult situation last year it found the Arab Libyan people, led by Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of [words indistinct] al Fateh international revolution was always in its support and backing its position and its struggle against imperialism. He said that the Korean people shall always support Arab Libya [words indistinct] he said people in their resistance for the unfair sanctions. [Words indistinct] consider the two people [words indistinct] The Arab Libyan and the Korean are standing in one trench in their continued struggle against the political domination and colonialism.

The Korean ambassador added that media in the Great Jamahiriyah has largely contributed in the success of the Korean people during the confrontation [word indistinct] American conspiracies. He said that we consider this success as a joint victory for our peoples.

He added that the Great Jamahiriyah and Korea had always been in support of the causes of justice and peace and that they coordinate for the victory of these causes particularly at the non-alignment conference, the U.N. General Assembly and in all arenas.

The Korean ambassador said that his country's foreign policy is based on the principle of reciprocity. To be peaceful with the peaceful and to be against the enemies of peace. He said on the light of this policy we are always against imperialist domination. America tried to subjugate our people and persuade them change their policy but due to the resistance and determination of the Korean people that [words indistinct] the white flag was raised in what had emerged as the nuclear crisis.

Lawyer Claims Iran Had PanAm Bombing Motive

MM3001163795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Jan 95 p 4

[Report by Ashraf Al-Faqiyy: "Lockerbie: Libyan Suspects' Lawyer Does Not Rule Out Iran's Involvement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—Ibrahim al-Ghuwayl, lawyer for the two Libyans suspected of being behind the blowing up of the PanAm plane over Lockerbie in 1988, has pointed out that Iran "had an interest" in downing the U.S. plane. He added in a statement to AL-HAYAH over the telephone from Cairo that "Iranian officials had pledged to take revenge after the United States shot down an Iranian plane (over the Gulf)."

He added: "The U.S. plane incident claimed 270 lives and coincided with Christmas celebrations in December. The circumstances are similar to those of the Iranian plane incident earlier in the same year, which claimed 300 lives and coincided with Muslims' celebration of a religious festival."

He pointed out that he informed the U.S. investigating authorities that Iran had an interest in downing the plane, "but this issue was not investigated, and these authorities have continued to level the accusation at Libya."

He went on: "Libya has not received any evidence of the involvement of the two suspects, al-Amin Khalifah Fahimah and 'Abd-al-Basit al-Miqrahi. And the case file which Libya has received contains merely apprehensions and suspicions which do not amount to evidence."

He expressed his confidence that his clients are innocent. He said: "I am confident of their innocence and have sufficient evidence to refute the apprehensions listed in the case file." However, he stressed "the need for them to be given a fair trial in any country other than the United States and Scotland."

Meanwhile, a Libyan diplomatic source in Cairo has said that "the U.S. Administration is insisting on its policy toward Libya. The U.S. President (Bill Clinton) and his aides know that Libya is innocent of the accusation leveled at it. And the U.S. intelligence organ knows who committed the bombing incident, and it has an interest in concealing the facts in order to continue the accusations leveled at Libya, which have other meanings of which we are all aware."

Mauritania

President Addresses Nation on Ramadan, Crimes

LD0102094695 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2200 GMT 31 Jan 95

[Address to the nation by President Maouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya on advent of Ramadan; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers be on upon his noble messenger.

Citizens, we receive Ramadan tomorrow. Ramadan is the month in which was sent down the Koran, as a guide to mankind, also clear signs for guidance and judgment between right and wrong [Koranic verse]. [passage omitted]

Dear citizens, the acts of plunder, destruction, and rioting witnessed on the streets of our capital during recent days are strange to the traditions and values of our society. These are considered abominable crimes, and it is our duty to confront their perpetrators with severity and firmness. I hope that the irresponsible acts which took place will not be repeated. [passage omitted]

Curfew 'Totally Lifted' in Nouakchott

AB3101154795 Paris AFP in French 1444 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Nouakchott, 31 Jan (AFP)—The curfew, in force in Nouakchott since 22 January following street demonstrations against an increase in the price of bread, was totally lifted today, it was announced from official sources.

The lifting of the curfew coincides with the Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting, which begins in Mauritania tomorrow. Imposed at the onset from 2000 to 0600, the curfew was reduced by two hours last Sunday [29 January] and remained valid from 2200 to 0600. [passage omitted]

From reliable sources in Nouakchott, it is indicated that the lifting of the curfew can be explained by an improvement in the security situation that should lead to a rapid release of the arrested opponents.

Opposition Leader Urges Colleagues' Release

AB0102121295 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 0730 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Mauritania today marks the first day of the Feast of Ramadan, one of the five pillars of Islam. On the occasion of the month of fasting, the government has lifted the curfew imposed in Nouakchott on 29 January after violent demonstrations were staged in reaction to a 25-percent increase in the price of bread. Opposition leaders arrested alongside the imposition of the curfew have not been released. Moulaye Mohamed, leader of the Democratic Center Party of Mauritania, pleads here for the release of his opposition colleagues.

[Begin recording] [Mohamed] Our colleagues are still being detained. We have no news about them yet even though we now know where they are being kept. We have just learned—and I believe this is the outcome of pressure from the general public following the steps we took—that the curfew has been lifted. We understand that the decision was made because today marks the beginning of the Feast of Ramadan and all-night prayer sessions are to be held this evening for the purpose. I believe the government does not, at any rate, wish to stretch this restriction of public freedoms to the point of preventing citizens from going to the mosques, but the soldiers are in the streets, and tanks and armored cars are still positioned in all districts of the capital. There are still soldiers standing guard at all street corners, but we demand that the soldiers be withdrawn and sent back to the barracks.

[Unidentified correspondent] In the evening of 30 January, there were reports of yet another demonstration by women.

[Mohamed] It must be stated that as long as democratic freedoms are not (?understood) there will always be demonstrations; there will always be marches; there will always be dissatisfaction. People will always show their desire to reconquer their public freedoms. [end recording]

Morocco

King Dissolves Government; Filali Still at Post

LD3101182095 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Royal Office has issued the following statement:

Today, 31 January 1995, His Majesty Hassan II decided to take an initiative that required putting an end to the duties of the government. Following this, His Majesty received Abdellatif Filali and confirmed him in his post as prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

In accordance with a proposition by Mr. Filali, His Majesty will appoint the other members of the government.

Pending this, the current government will continue with its duties and run the present issues.

King Hassan Receives Saudi Government Delegation

LD3001190995 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, who was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid, received at the royal court this afternoon His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, interior minister in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who was accompanied by His Royal Highness Muhammad Bin-Nayif, His Royal Highness Faysal Bin-Muhammad Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz, and Mr. 'Ali Majid al-Qabbani, ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Rabat.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Addresses People's Defense Recruits

EA3101120995 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, this morning addressed at the People's Defense Ground at al-Qadarif town, Eastern State, the state graduation ceremony for 50,000 people's defense recruits who were trained lately. His Excellency said: The Sudanese person in the National Salvation Revolution era is bold and militant, and works hard on the basis of his faith in the mission of being God's successor on earth to (?mobilize) and be ready to confront the states of arrogance [duwal al-istikbar] [words indistinct].

He said that the meaning of jihad is clear from the faith of all the sectors of the sons of the homeland who have raised aloft the banner of the jihad and resisted the imperial onslaught targeting Islam and the Muslims. He added that the march of the jihad will continue because millions of the sons of the homeland are very eager to offer their lives in defense of the faith. His Excellency said that the greater part of our life is devoted to worshipping God. He said: We wish to provide the ideal model for all peoples.

Major General al-Bashir called for the month of Ramadan to be made the month for spiritual renewal and clear victory for the mujahidin in the south of the country; to rout the rebel remnants and their supporters as well as all those who are lying in wait to pounce on the country's territorial integrity and security.

Abu-Salih 'Regrets' Egypt's Cutting Water Links

EA3101190795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih regrets the Egyptian Government's decision to liquidate the Nile Valley Navigation Corporation, particularly in a period in which the relations between the two countries are witnessing efforts to clear the air. His excellency confirmed Sudan's earnestness in normalizing its relations with Egypt.

On the other hand, Dr. Abu-Salih declared, at the Foreign Ministry's regular forum today, that a delegation from the High Commission for Refugees would visit Sudan to acquaint itself with the conditions of the refugees for the purpose of contributing to finding solutions to the problem. He added that the United Nations would also hold meetings in New York, Geneva, and Nairobi in order to mobilize support for the Lifeline Operation this year. He pointed out that the operation was now not confined to providing relief to those affected by the war in the south of the country, but also included implementing rehabilitation programs in these areas and setting up agricultural projects.

For his part, Ambassador Atallah Hamad, director of the department of economic cooperation at the Foreign Ministry, explained that a sum of $100 million had been earmarked for the Lifeline Operation in the current year. He pointed out that the contribution of the Lifeline Operation in the rehabilitation operations in the affected areas supported the process of peace from within.

Western Sahara

SDAR Accuses UN of Aligning With Morocco

LD3101200395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Madrid today SDAR [Saharan Democratic Arab Republic] President Mohamed Abdelaziz accused the United Nations of aligning with Morocco. He noted that the continuation of pressures will reduce the opportunities of holding a referendum on the Saharan people's self-determination.

Mr. Mohamed Abdelaziz, who was on his way to the United States to meet with parliamentarians and members of the U.S. Government to revive the UN peace plan aimed at holding a referendum on self- determination in the Western Sahara, explained that the United Nations is weak in opposition to Morocco.

On the other hand, the Saharan president appealed to Spain and the EU to play an effective and positive role to find a solution to the Western Sahara issue. He affirmed that the solution lies in holding a free and just referendum, because the continuation of the conflict will lead to instability of the Maghreb area.

More OAU Observers Sought in Referendum

LD2801211995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. Mohamed Ould Saydati, the Saharan minister of information and culture [title as received], expressed his hope that the number of observers participating in the Saharan voters' identification process from the Organization of African Unity [OAU], who will participate in the self-determination referendum that the UN intends to organize in Western Sahara, will be increased.

The Saharan official, who was talking before the 61st session of the OAU' foreign affairs ministers, which concluded its meetings yesterday in Addis Ababa, pointed out that increasing the number of African observers in the Saharan voters' identification process will help in covering the new offices of the voters' identifications, decided by the UN in Western Sahara. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, the Saharan information minister condemned the negative stance of the Moroccan Government that is aimed at obstructing the work of the Saharan voters' Identification Committee, and is working toward thwarting the peace process in Western Sahara.

Joint Legal Team Formed To Resolve Saudi-Yemeni Conflict

MM0102093095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Hasin al-Bunyan: "Formation of Legal Team To Draft Formula for Settlement of Differences in the Saudi-Yemeni Negotiations"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh—Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general, has expressed hope that the current Saudi-Yemeni negotiations in Riyadh would arrive at a joint concept for the settlement of the border disputes in the interests of the two peoples.

During yesterday's Saudi cabinet meeting which he chaired, Prince Sultan said that the negotiations were pervaded by a spirit of fraternity.

The custodian of the Two Holy Mosques yesterday evening sent a greetings cable to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the occasion of the blessed month of Ramadan.

Sources close to the negotiations have stressed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the talks have entered a decisive phase now focused on ways of surmounting the points of disagreement.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the two negotiating sides have formed a joint legal team in which the Saudi side is headed by Dr. Matlab Bin-'Abdallah al-Nafisah, head of the cabinet's experts branch and head of the Saudi side in the Joint Border Experts Committee, and includes two other Saudi legal experts; the Yemeni side is headed by Dr. Rashad al-'Ulaymi and includes Muhammad al-Shami and 'Ali Hazzam. Two Yemeni legal experts will arrive in Riyadh today. One of them is Ambassador Ja'far Sa'id Ba-Salih, head of the Yemeni side in the Border Experts Committee.

The legal team began its work yesterday. It will be holding consultations with a view to formulating a joint draft for resolving points of disagreement. The sources say that the negotiations will be resumed after the legal team completes its mission which will be the main factor for making major progress in the negotiations. They do not rule out the possibility that the legal consultations between the two sides might lead to advanced steps towards a final agreement.

The seventh round of negotiations was last night postponed, and the negotiations are not expected to be resumed today, awaiting the results of the meetings of the joint legal team which began yesterday and will continue today.

The sources say that the differences between the two negotiating sides are on the following two important procedural issues:

1. Disagreement regarding demarcation of the borders not included in the 1934 treaty signed by the two countries in al-Ta'if, namely definition of the border line in the land area between Saudi Arabia and the former South Yemen (al-Maharah area) and up to the borders of the Sultanate of Oman, and demarcation of the remaining borders from the Red Sea to Jabal al-Tha'r overlooking the Najran valley.

2. Disagreement on the interpretation of the principle of arbitration included in Article 8 of the al-Ta'if treaty which stipulates that "the two contracting sides mutually pledge to refrain from the use of force in solving their problems and to work hard for the settlement of whatever differences might arise between them, whether over the present treaty or some or all of its provisions or over other factors, through cordial consultations and, if that fails, they both promise to resort to arbitration, the terms and ways of application for which will be listed in an appendix to the present treaty." [passage omitted]

Bahrain

UAE Interior Minister Arrives for Security Talks

JN3001111695 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0910 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 30 Jan (WAKH)—Dr. [Lieutenant General] Muhammad Bin-Sa'id al-Badi, minister of interior in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], this morning arrived in Manama on a two-day official visit to Bahrain at the invitation of Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah.

During the visit, Lt. Gen. al-Badi will hold talks with the Bahraini interior minister dealing with bilateral relations and ways to bolster the existing cooperation between Bahrain and the UAE in the field of security and other issues of common concern.

Upon arrival, the UAE interior minister said that he will meet with officials in Bahrain to exchange opinions in order to enhance security coordination and cooperation between the UAE and Bahrain and the Gulf region in general. [passage omitted]

Al-Badi said: We consider security and stability a strong and solid underpinning of the welfare we seek for our peoples and the progress of our homelands. Therefore, we are keen on seeing security and stability prevail in the entire Gulf region where security is an indivisible whole. Thus, it is necessary to have cooperation, coordination, and continued joint action to realize sought goals.

Concluding, he said that his visit to Bahrain falls within the context of this orientation and that it is a continuation of the sincere efforts being exerted in the area of security cooperation. He said: We are highly confident that our meetings and consultations with brothers in the State of Bahrain will contribute to the welfare of our sisterly countries and all other Gulf countries.

Holds Talks With Interior Minister

JN3001152995 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 30 Jan (WAKH)—A round of official talks was held between Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah and Lieutenant General Dr. Muhammad Bin-Sa'id al-Badi, minister of interior in the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

Discussions dealt with security issues that concern the two fraternal states and ways of bolstering and developing cooperation and coordination between the security organs of the two countries.

In a statement following the meeting, the Bahraini interior minister welcomed the visit of Lt. Gen. Dr. Muhammad Bin-Sa'id al-Badi and thanked him for responding to the invitation. He said the visit emphasizes the integration and links between the leaders and peoples of the two sisterly states.

The interior minister said the meeting has provided a chance for further consultations, exchange of views, and full coordination on developing joint security action and for boosting integration between security organs in the various fields in a manner that realizes the interests of the two sisterly states under the directives of the two wise leaderships of His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhiyyan, the UAE president.

Departs After Talks

JN3101093195 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0515 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 30 Jan (WAKH)—Lieutenant General Dr. Muhammad Bin-Sa'id al-Badi, interior minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], and the delegation accompanying him left Manama this evening on their way to Abu Dhabi after a one-day visit to Bahrain at the invitation of Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah.

The UAE minister and his Bahraini counterpart held talks that dealt with the intimate, fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries and ways to enhance them, especially in the field of security. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

JN3101073495 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al- Karim al-Kabariti arrived in Manama last night on an official two-day visit to Bahrain during which he will deliver a message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain.

Upon arrival, al-Kabariti was received by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, a number of Bahraini Foreign Ministry senior officials, and the Jordanian ambassador to Bahrain.

Al-Kabariti will meet with his highness the amir of the State of Bahrain today. He will also meet with Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah and hold a round of talks with the Bahraini foreign minister.

Al-Kabariti arrived in Manama from Abu Dhabi where he met with Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, deputy prime minister of the United Arab Emirates.

In statements to reporters following the meeting, al-Kabariti said that the Jordanian leadership hopes that the efforts being exerted on various levels will help realize Arab solidarity.

Meets With Amir, Delivers Message

JN3101111195 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 31 Jan (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, has received a message from King Husayn of Jordan. The message deals with the Arab situation, clearing the Arab atmosphere, and bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries. It also carried the Jordanian king's greetings and wishes for the continued good health and happiness of his highness the amir of Bahrain and wishes for the continued progress, welfare, and prosperity of the people of Bahrain.

The message was conveyed by Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al- Karim al-Kabariti, who was received by his highness the amir of Bahrain here today. During the meeting, his highness the prince welcomed the Jordanian foreign minister, noting the fraternal and strong relations between the two sisterly countries and peoples.

The two sides also exchanged views on the latest developments on the Gulf and Arab scenes, the Middle East peace process, and ways to restore Arab solidarity. His highness the amir stressed the eagerness of Bahrain to cleanse the Arab atmosphere and unify Arab ranks in the interest of the Arab and Islamic nation.

His highness the amir also asked the Jordanian minister to convey his greetings and wishes of continued good health and happiness to King Husayn and for further progress for the fraternal Jordanian people.

For his part, the Jordanian envoy expressed his thanks and appreciation for his highness the amir for his keenness on reinforcing relations of friendship and cooperation with Jordan. He praised Bahrain's firm stands in supporting the causes of the Arab and Islamic nation and the Middle East peace process. He wished Bahrain further progress and prosperity under the wise leadership of his highness the amir.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin- Mubarak Al Khalifah and Jordanian Ambassador to Bahrain Dr. Shakir 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Arabiyat.

Concludes Visit

JN3101131995 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 31 Jan (WAKH)—'Abd-al-Karim al- Kabariti, foreign minister of the sisterly Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, left Manama this afternoon on his way to Amman following a two-day visit to Bahrain.

In a statement to the Gulf News Agency, al-Kabariti said that he was happy to visit Bahrain at the kind invitation of Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah.

He said that he had the honor to meet with his highness the amir of Bahrain and convey a message to him from King Husayn in which King Husayn emphasized Jordan's sincere support for the State of Bahrain in all areas. The message also dealt with the current Arab situation as well as issues of common interest.

Al-Kabariti commended Bahrain's stand toward its sister Jordan on all Arab issues. He added: We cannot but consider this stand the basis on which we should build a strong relationship in the interest of the two fraternal peoples.

Kuwait

Amir Receives Iraqi SAIRI Chairman al-Hakim

LD3001205295 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 0930 this morning, his highness the Amir received His Eminence Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, the chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], on the occasion of his visit to the country. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the minister of amiri court affairs.

At 1000 this morning at his office at Bayan Palace, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister received His Eminence Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, who is currently visiting the country.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister. It was also attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, and Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim, the ambassador at the Foreign Ministry.

Government Condemns Algiers Car Bombing

LD3101175995 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The State of Kuwait has expressed its great indignation and deep sorrow at the horrifying terrorist crime that took place in Algiers yesterday following the explosion of a booby-trapped car in an Algiers street. The bombing killed many innocent victims.

'Abd-al-'Aziz Dakhil al-Dakhil, state minister for cabinet affairs and planning minister, said Kuwait expressed its condemnation of the terrorist act on the basis of its principled stance of rejecting all kinds and forms of terrorism.

Al-Dakhil expressed sincere condolences to the families of the innocent victims and to the people and leadership of Algeria, hoping that all sincere efforts would be united to achieve peace and stability in brotherly Algeria.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Addresses Nation at Start of Ramadan

LD3001215295 Riyadh SPA in English 1943 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Jan 30, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy premier and head of the national guard, addressed the Saudi people and all Muslim peoples today on the occasion of the start of the holy fasting month of Ramadan.

The address which was delivered by Information Minister 'Ali Al- Sha'ir through all media organs.

The Saudi monarch and crown prince extended greetings to citizens, residents, visitors of the two holy mosques and Muslim peoples all over the world on this great occasion.

They pointed to the painful events which befell the Muslim world in the past year especially in occupied Palestine, Bosnia, Chechnya, Somalia and Afghanistan as well as the persecution imposed on Muslim minorities in other parts of the world.

They renewed the call "on our selves, and Muslim brothers in all countries to seize the opportunity of the teachings of the fasting month and its manners and meanings to purify hearts from evils, clear the souls from blemishes and be sincere in our words and actions."

They also pointed to the countless blessings that God has bestowed on us all, and on the kingdom in particular, namely serving the two holy mosques and their visitors all year round.

CDLR Bulletin on Saudi Events

MS3101144895 London CDLR MONITOR in English 23 Dec 94

[Bulletin No. 27, 23 Dec 1994, issued by the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, CDLR; received by fax 31 Jan 95]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Your Right to Know...

All The Choices Are Bitter

A journalist who had recently visited the Kingdom, described to the committee the situation inside the royal family as disturbing and he was surprised to notice that neither the men in the street nor the academics were worried by the current situation.

A reasonable explanation for this is that the Al Sa'ud are aware of the grim economic reality. Even the lies and fabrications cannot conceal the truth, now that the budget announcement is drawing near. A dramatic exposure of the economic disasters is expected. Al Sa'ud are helpless in the face of the impending catastrophe.

The claim by the King of a 20 per cent reduction in this year's budget is farcical as the reduction in operation and maintenance is already exhausted to the extent that services and utilities have gone from bad to worse. Therefore, any possible reduction will not be in the operation and maintenance budget but in the wages of the citizens, or perhaps by making 20 per cent of the wage earners redundant. We can expect the famous al Sa'ud Thatcherite formula "fend for yourselves!", as was the case last year.

Whatever the Al Sa'ud decide they will exacerbate public anger.

The second choice for Al Sa'ud is to continue borrowing. This is difficult as domestic cash flow has practically dried up and the government must seek outside help. Foreign banks will not lend money to the Kingdom, as insurance companies have refused to give any guarantees.

The Kingdom has recently been forced to abandon Saudi laws and adopt English laws to encourage banks to lend them money. They obtained a small loan, as reported in the MEES, a magazine specialising in Middle East economics. It is highly unlikely that the Kingdom will obtain large loans to cover the budget deficit. Such dealings will only play into the hands of the economic critics of whom, Al Sa'ud are afraid.

The third choice is devaluation of the Riyal, which will solve the problem numerically without really changing anything. Apart from a massive deception of the people, it would be a calamitous blow to the Al Sa'ud on the international front where so far they have managed to camouflage the situation.

The fourth choice, which has already been applied to some extent, is to increase the revenues of the treasury through tax and tariffs. Our readers will be aware of this from our previous issues. This has resulted in the increase in prices of utilities, increased taxes on passports, visas and travel...

Clearly, even the sweetest and most seductive of choices is still a very bitter pill to swallow. While the state is toying with these ideas, it has another alternative. It is an easy and effective choice, but we do not think Al Sa'ud will accept it. Every member of the Al Sa'ud family must reach into their over-filled pocket and return to the state's coffers, all that has been embezzled. If every prince returned a billion dollars each to the treasury it may be helpful. The King too, should return the $50 billions he has embezzled. And if Sultan and his sons Khalid and Bandar, and others did the same you need not be a mathematician to work out the budgetary consequences.

This is logical but impossible given the greed, stubbornness, irresponsibility and suicidal inclinations of the Al Sa'ud family. At this very minute, these muggers are still embezzling on a grandiose scale. They still continue to amass huge commissions on real and imaginary deals. And there is no change in their voluptuous life-style at the expense of the poor people of the country. Recently, the King sold his Magical Islands Palace to the State after issuing himself with the ownership deeds, for 12 billion Riyal.

The debauched and dissolute life style of the royal family, the vast expenditure on the maintenance of their palaces, gardens etc. and entertainment, as reflected by Sultan Bin-'Abd'al'Aziz's lavish and lascivious trip to Morocco costing 5 million Riyal a day, will not be affected even if it swallows up half the total budget. The reductions will always be at the expense of the poor Saudi citizens.

The Interior Minister Wife...

We understand that Nayif is a tyrant but what we cannot understand is that he is a slave to his wife and puts prisons, cars, security forces etc. at her disposal. How do al Sa'ud, the "macho" men, allow Maha al-Sadayri to enjoy such power and influence?

Recently a number of officers had the misfortune to deal with her case against Khalid 'Abd-al-Rahman. They have been harshly punished for not handling the case to her satisfaction. The High court judge, Ibn-Muhanna, was forced to sentence Shaykh Sulayman al-Dawish to 8 years in prison to satisfy Maha's insatiable lust for revenge.

A few months ago, Maha al-Sudayri took it upon herself to order an aeroplane en route to Jordan to return to Saudi Arabia to prevent one of her relations from travelling outside Riyadh.

Several weeks ago she forced two married women to accompany her to Europe without their husbands' consent for unknown reasons. Before this she had several men and women imprisoned for daring to give her advice to her face.

Last summer her name was on an Interpol list in Geneva until the intervention of her loving husband. The latest story concerns Minahi al-Qahtani who works for the special forces as a guard at the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Syria. The man was carrying out his duties with pride believing he was guarding a symbol of his country's honour. An unknown man tried to gain admittance to the embassy and insisted on an audience with the ambassador, even though he had no appointment and the ambassador was in a meeting. A fight ensued, with the ambassador being called from his meeting. The man left after much swearing and al-Qahtani believed he had done his duty. Unfortunatley, the man he stopped was one of Maha's relations. Two days later, a very agitated Maha telephoned with a torrent of verbal abuse from her noble, royal and perfumed mouth. Al-Qahtani did not answer back and Maha eventually threatened him with punishment.

A few hours later the ambassador received a personal order from Nayif himself for al-Qahtani to return immediately to Riyadh, where the intelligence personnel were waiting to escort him to the security prison in 'Ulaysha. Here, he was interrogated by the personal security of Prince Nayif, al-Dawud. Al-Qahtani is still in the custody of he al-Sa'ud.

Al Sa'ud and The Western Media...

Acting on with the advice of a western ambassador, Al Sa'ud decided that they would relax the restrictions on the entry of journalists to the Kingdom and to invite some of them to visit the Kingdom personally. The royal family has arranged a programme for 400 journalists a year to visit the Kingdom. They began with a group of about 50 from Europe and America.

The King and his brothers believe that these hand-picked journalists will be seduced by the generosity of the ruling family. However, as soon as this first group returned to their countries, Al Sa'ud were bitterly disappointed by the vehemence of these journalist's criticism of the regime.

An apoplectic Nayif frosted at the mouth as he told a German newspaper, "we invite the journalists to come and all they publish are the negative aspects of the country."

The western media has been competing to see who could discover the most repellent facts about this closed country. In Britain, THE INDEPENDENT, THE GUARDIAN and THE TIMES all ran articles. In the USA, THE WASHINGTON POST, THE HERALD TRIBUNE and THE LOS ANGELES TIMES were all active with western European journalists also rapidly departing from heir pro-Fahd fawning stance. One of the latter, Lesley Plummer, a writer for THE GUARDIAN, is now hostile to her once blue-eyed Boy.

Some Saudi newspapers in London attempted to counter criticisms in western newspapers by their own peculiar brand of disinformation. They tried to pull the wool over the eyes of Saudi readers in the Kingdom by distorted translations of some articles, such as that by Michael Sheridan in THE INDEPENDENT. These articles were intelligently written and subtly criticised Kingdom. An undiscerning reader with no background knowledge may have been misled into believing the articles were pro-Saudi, it was the opposite.

The Al-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper, (Middle East newspaper) tried to convey this impression in its comments on the articles and considered them a turning point in the west's view of the Kingdom.

Many journalists contacted the Committee both before and after their travel to the Kingdom and insisted on hearing the other point of view. After meeting them again we found that they had discovered much of the reality of the situation in the Kingdom through various classes of people.

The was particularly true of the print media. As for television and radio the Al Sa'uds are in for a mighty shock as they do, realise their former opinions.

German and French stations transmitted interviews with the Committee. In Britain the B.B.C. has interviewed the Committee on several occasions and a documentary will be broadcast soon. Three other documentaries are under preparation for British TV on the economic, military and political chaos in the Kingdom. These will be broadcast in the very future.

In Europe, at least one documentary is being prepared, whilst in America one of the largest broadcasting stations is preparing a detailed profile of the Kingdom which should soon be ready.

The media remains busy on Al Sa'ud's business and we hope that Al Sa'ud will realise that the fault lies with them and not the press they own.

News

Tragic Events...

The tragedies of the neighbouring countries are being repeated in our country today. The stories we read about the suffering of families in neighbouring countries after the arrest of their bread- winners are now being repeated in the Kingdom. Humiliation, hardship and hostage taking are now normal in Saudi Arabia.

Many families in Qasim and Riyadh are without a provider or a guardian, and many people were arrested as hostages in place of absent relations wanted by the authorities.

Some families have broken records in the number of family members arrested. For example, six members of the al-Rushudi family were arrested, four of the al-Muhaymid and three of the al-Kifan. Many tragic stories remind us of the dreadful suffering of the Palestinians.

Muhammad al-Hudayf, a lecturer in the University, media department was arrested in the early stages of the crisis. His house was put under siege by the security forces who were searching for his brothers. When his 70 year old father went out to see what they wanted, he was beaten unconscious and his sons arrested. This left the house with no man in charge, the father in hospital and the sons in prison. The authorities arrested yet another member of the al-Yahya, after an assault on his house and confiscation of some of his personal effects. His 70 year old mother collapsed from the shock.

Health Services...

The work on the project of the specialist al-Ta'if hospital haS stopped due to non-payment of the contractor. It is expected that the Ministry will not be able to operate the hospital even if the building was completed, because of lack of funds.

The Ministry faces a dilemma in operating the Gulf Hospital in Dammam and King Fahd hospital in Riyadh and other completed hospitals.

Rubbish accumulated in the psychiatric hospital in al-Ta'if due to a strike by refuse collectors, whilst in Jeddah refuse collectors and a large number of nurses went on strike because of the stoppage of their wages for four months.

Authority Fails...

The Government ordered a grant for his Eminence Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Qa'ud of 3 million riyal, which the Shaykh strongly rejected. The incorruptible freedom fighter added to the discomfiture of the Al Sa'ud with a fighting, fearless speech on Friday on the wanton and criminal squandering of the country's riches.

His Eminence, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Ajlan, the Head of Al- Qasim Courts, spent the whole of his grant straight away on the needy and other charitable causes, while making two eminent judges witness his actions.

The Committee was also informed about a large number of presents and grants to academic staff in Universities and the Committee congratulates the above Shaykhs for their stand against bribery and we appeal to all scholars and academics to follow their example and not to be seduced by bribes of a dying, bloodstained and desperate regime.

Paper Urges U.S. 'Objectivity' Over Egypt's NPT Stance

MM3101092695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jan 95 p9

[Editorial: "U.S. Objectivity Is Necessary"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States should not lose its objectivity and align itself completely with Israel.

The United States would be making a big mistake if the leaders of its two main parties allowed themselves to be driven to a completely partial policy that puts Israeli interests above U.S. interests. However strong the Zionist lobby's pressure may be, there has always been a line beyond which that pressure was not allowed to go. That line represents U.S. interests and Washington's international role.

We fear that the United States is now using a new method in the Middle East completely different from its traditional policy which, despite its clear partiality for Israel, stopped at a certain point and appeared to take a line independent from Israel's intrasigent line. That was clear in several stands taken in the days of President George Bush's (Republican) administration which insisted on freezing the loan guarantees for Israel until the building of Israeli settlements was frozen. Bush indeed succeeded in that, just as U.S. policy under President Carter's (Democratic) administration succeeded in establishing peace between Egypt and Israel and in forcing the latter to dismantle the settlements built on Egyptian territory and to end the problems it created over Tabah at the time.

Today the situation seems different. There are voices in Congress threatening to stop U.S. aid to Egypt if it does not stop insisting that Israel, like all states of the region, should sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

The night before last, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher openly told the congressional Foreign Affairs Committee that "the administration does not understand the link between Egypt and Libya."

We cannot but note here that the U.S. position came after an open and frank Israeli campaign calling on the United States to stop its aid to Egypt because of its insistence on purging the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons.

Egypt's demand is natural and it is supported by all the Arab states. It is also logical and in line with all international agreements and with the peace policies the world wants to see. That is why the United States and Israel would lose much by defying logic and the trend for peace and by trying to go back to the colonialist era and even worse, when policies were imposed by force without regard for peoples' rights or the principles of justice. Furthermore, that position poses the threat of completely destroying the Arab-Israeli peace plan because it maintains that the Arabs should accept the Israeli position and should agree to remain under constant threat from Israel and its nuclear arsenal. Tha natural outcome of such an arrogant and intransigent position is that tension, confrontations, and wars would return to the region, something not encouraged by any party which really wants true and strong peace and real stability in the Middle East.

Paper Assails 'Contradictions' in Yemeni Statements

JN3101124195 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 29 Jan 95 p 9

[Editorial: "An Unacceptable Contradiction"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The sharp Yemeni statements issued recently in Sanaa have run directly counter to the statements made by the speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, who is currently heading his country's delegation to talks in Riyadh to normalize ties between the two fraternal countries. The clear disparity in these statements in terms of content and approach does not help the ongoing negotiations. Consequently, this disparity cannot promote the higher interests of the two peoples, who aspire to normalize their relations.

There is no doubt that average Arabs have been obviously amazed by the bizarre contradictions in the Yemeni statements. For, the Yemeni delegation has come to Riyadh carrying with it the dossiers of the marginal differences between the two fraternal states in order to settle them completely, once and for all. This delegation was sent by the Yemeni Government; it is supposed to speak on its behalf, and to be treated as such. The contradictions in the recent Yemeni statements have seriously undermined the efforts of the Yemeni Government's official delegation dispatched to Riyadh to settle outstanding disputes in a fraternal manner. Likewise, these contradictions undermine the climate of optimism appropriately created for the talks so that the negotiators of both countries may resolve outstanding issues through amicable means. The negotiators should have been helped in their efforts to contain and settle the dispute so as to ensure the normalization of ties between the two fraternal countries.

The kingdom, through his highness the second deputy prime minister, has asserted that the news regarding the presence of a Saudi military buildup on the Yemeni borders is groundless. He added that the ongoing dialogue between the two sides "will not be undermined by the efforts of tendentious parties that stand to lose from the efforts to normalize bilateral ties". This statement is in complete harmony with the statements made by the speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, who is heading his country's delegation to the talks. This confirms that any statement to the contrary is designed to undermine the persistent efforts to bring together the views of the two delegations, which are negotiating in earnest in a bid to outline the prospects for the future relationship between the two countries and reach a drastic and firm solution to their border disputes.

An initial examination of the negotiations between the two sides, which are designed to address all bilateral differences, clearly indicates that the kingdom seeks to continue the dialogue with the Yemeni brethren so that the negotiators may reach final solutions that will resolve bilateral disputes and normalize ties. This is in line with the declared and clear political constants of the kingdom, the soundness of which cannot be called into question by anybody. These constants are intended to promote inter-Arab ties and resolve inter-Arab disputes through peaceful means. Besides, the kingdom has taken noble stands in its efforts to handle several Arab and Islamic crises.

Driven by these political constants, the kingdom is currently engaged in a serious endeavor with Yemen in order to reach points of agreement with it regarding the resolution of outstanding disputes, because it believes that these disputes run counter to the essence of the extremely strong ties between the two fraternal and neighboring peoples.

United Arab Emirates

Jordan's al-Kabariti on Relations With Gulf States, Syria

JN3001180995 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Jan (PETRA)—Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has emphasized that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, supports any Arab meetings aimed to realize unity of ranks and Arab reconciliation, and restore Arab solidarity.

Al-Kabariti said Jordan has sought to realize the unity of Arab ranks and preserve the interests and resources of the nation, and this was the reason for the Jordanian diplomatic efforts with Cairo, Tunisia, Morocco, and Palestine. He emphasized that Jordan will continue to work for realizing the minimum of solidarity based on the unity of interests and unity of pan-Arab security.

He added that Jordan will not spare any efforts toward eliminating all obstacles in order to build bridges of confidence to restore relations to the way they should be among brothers.

He said: We in Jordan have our hearts and minds always open, and we bless any meetings on the bilateral or summit levels, or any meeting that may serve the Arab and Islamic causes.

Al-Kabariti added: Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, used to respond to, and participate in any meeting that serves the Arab and Islamic nations.

He expressed hope that the coming days will witness the restoration of Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations, adding that the Jordanian position during the Gulf war had not been against any of the brothers in Kuwait. He also said: Diplomatic efforts with them have not stopped, and we recently sent a ranking Foreign Ministry official to inspect the premises of the Jordanian Embassy in Kuwait, and he met with the undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry. Kuwait is keeping its embassy in Amman and we hope that the next few days will witness the restoration of our relations with Kuwait to their normal situation.

On Jordanian relations with the United Arab Emirates, al-Kabariti said these relations are strong and solid, and are based on fraternity, mutual respect, and relentless efforts to upgrade them to the required level.

He said: Jordan highly appreciates Saudi Arabia for its support for the Jordanian development march. We are also thankful for the care accorded to the Jordanian workers in Saudi Arabia, and we hope these workers will play their role in contributing to the Saudi development.

He emphasized that Jordan supports the Syrian position in going ahead with the peace process in a manner that leads to the restoration of its full sovereign and legitimate rights and all occupied Syrian territories on the basis of the resolutions of the international legitimacy.

He said relations between the leaderships of the two countries are based on mutual respect.

Yemen

Salih: Dispute With Saudi Arabia Can Be Resolved Through Dialogue

JN3001220695

[FBIS Editorial Report] Sanaa Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic broadcasts on 30 January a 13-minute announcer-read "text" of a message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to the Yemeni people on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan, which starts in Yemen on 31 January.

President Salih notes in his message that Ramadan this year comes under the triumph of Yemeni unity and democracy and freedom. He asks the Arab and Muslim peoples to establish among them ties based on the teachings of Islam and on mutual respect and common interests. Salih also notes that Yemen faced major challenges that were imposed on it by those who were hostile to Yemeni unity and democracy. He also stresses that Yemen "seeks peace, security, and stability for itself and for all of its neighbors, brothers, and friends" and opposes "all forms of violence and believes in dialogue as the means to resolve all issues."

In reference to the border dispute with Saudi Arabia, Salih notes that "the border dispute cannot be resolved by imposing a fait accompli policy or by using force, but through dialogue and understanding, according to the Islamic principle of not inflicting harm on others or accepting others' harm, and in a way that guarantees the legitimate legal and historic rights of all parties and guarantees security, peace, and stability in the region."

Salih Discusses Economy, Oil, Terrorism

NC3101140095 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Jan 95 p 3

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Ahmad al-Siyufi in Aden; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Al-Siyufi] What is your comment on the opposition grouping recently formed in London? Does it pose a danger to Yemen or its unity?

[Salih] Political action in every sphere is allowed in Yemen through parties, pluralism, and the media. Whoever wants to oppose has the opposition channels. As for those who go abroad, they do not deserve to be mentioned and do not affect Yemen at all. The price has been paid for what was done in London. What can a speech in Hyde Park do when the speaker could not prove anything or do something when he was inside his homeland and the military machine was in his hand? [passage omitted]

[Al-Siyufi] Dialogues have been held between your government and the international financial institutions, most notably the World Bank, which has set out harsh conditions. How do you view them? Can they be applied to the Yemeni people? Can the people shoulder them?

[Salih] We are reforming our economy within the framework of our unique conditions and through gradual phases, ensuring that no new problems are created or that no new burdens are imposed on our people. We will take whatever is positive from the World Bank's recommendations.

[Al-Siyufi] But among the recommendations is one on abandoning subsidies to goods and laying off a third of the workers in your country.

[Salih] The state has started to abandon the subsidies on some commodities. But there are some primary commodities that the state can abandon only gradually. This will become acceptable and possible when the economy improves.

Following constitutional amendments we are now moving toward implementing the free market policy, the principle of privatization, and the sale of loss-making public factories and economic establishments; encouraging investment and the people to exploit their capabilities in industry, agriculture, tourism, and other fields of development; seeking new exports; implementing strategic projects; and expanding oil and gas discoveries and using the revenue to improve the economy in our country. This will create new jobs that will enable us to absorb the surplus manpower and reduce the state's burdens.

[Al-Siyufi] Are there conditions for investment in Yemen?

[Salih] There is an investment law that protects and encourages local, Arab, and foreign investors, grants them many facilities, and provides them with many opportunities and privileges.

[Al-Siyufi] Hopes are pinned on the future of oil and gas in Yemen. What are your plans in this sphere? What do you expect in the coming few years? What is the truth about the pressures exerted by neighboring countries to prevent the drilling companies from doing their work?

[Salih] Oil exploration and discoveries are proceeding well. There are new oil discoveries in several areas allotted to the companies operating in our country. Oil revenue will be invested in the strategic industries field, agricultural development, building dams, and completing the development infrastructure, benefiting in this from the experiences of others and avoiding getting used to patterns of behavior and consumption, because it would be difficult to abandon them later. We are looking to invest our oil and gas revenue in all that is strategic and all that strengthens the national economy.

[Al-Siyufi] Is there pressure on oil companies operating in your country to stop them extracting oil?

[Salih] Oil companies are coming to our country in increasing numbers, especially recently. They are U.S., French, British, Japanese, Canadian, and Russian companies. Others are from Arab countries and elsewhere. These companies are looking out for their own interests and we welcome an exchange of benefits and interests.

[Al-Siyufi] Has any company stopped exploration for oil?

[Salih] No. No exploration company has halted work. Some companies repatriated their experts and workers during the war but they resumed their operations normally, if not in an improved way, as soon as the war ended and things stabilized.

[Al-Siyufi] But there are reports that your neighbor Saudi Arabia has intervened with some oil companies operating in Yemen to stop exploration. Is that true?

[Salih] This may have happened with the French company Alpha, which received warnings from the brothers in Saudi Arabia similar to those made against some other companies. Alpha is the only company that has slowed down exploration work. I will soon go to France to discuss this with the friendly French side. (This interview with the president came before his latest visit to France, during which he discussed this issue) [AL-SHA'B editorial note]. [passage omitted]

[Al-Siyufi] It is clear that you have a unique experiment in dealing with all kinds of political force, particularly the Islamic trend. You resolved the hardest equation, one that has caused troubles in other countries. Do you expect this experiment to succeed, despite the conspiracy and the constant attempts to drive a wedge between the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG]? How do you see the future of this experiment and does its success depend on your continuing custody or is it something exclusive to Yemen? And how true are reports about the so-called terrorist camps?

[Salih] The Yemeni people are a Muslim people who adopt Islam as a faith and a creed and are loyal to the homeland and to unity. There is no problem in dealing with the Islamic trend, because we believe in democracy and political pluralism. Since we believe in democracy and the principle of a peaceful change of power, it is the right of any party or political organization that gains the confidence of the people through the ballot boxes to gain as much power as is determined by its presence and influence in parliament. This right is not confined to a specific party or political trend, be it from the right, center, or left. We in Yemen are a unique case, different from others. We believe it is better for everybody to participate in building the homeland within a framework of commitment to national principles, democracy, and respect for the Constitution. Undoubtedly, religious or rightist fanaticism came into being at some point—to confront the communist tide and leftist fanaticism. Violence, in most cases, is a reaction to frustration, deprivation, and repression. As for the existing coalition between the GPC and the YRG, it is solid and based on firm foundations and common ground. Their coalition and alliance are for the good of the country, because they are the two largest parties in parliament and in view of their role in preserving the unity of the homeland. The YRG is a patriotic party that is committed to national principles, advocates progress, and is against extremism or rigidity. As for claims about the fanaticism of the Islamic trend in our country or the existence of terrorist camps in Yemen, these are all false and misleading propaganda disseminated by the leftists and socialists and the enemies of Yemen for political machinations and designed to distort the image of Yemen. [passage omitted]

Riyadh Said To Reject Egyptian-Syrian Observer Committee

MM3101164495 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 31 Jan 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Yemen: Riyadh Rejects Formation of Egyptian-Syrian Observation Committee To Ease Border Tension"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sanaa, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—Well-informed Yemeni sources have stressed that the Riyadh talks over the border dispute are facing numerous obstacles, despite official statements that progress has been made.

The sources revealed Saudi Arabia's conclusive refusal to form a joint observation committee from Egyptian and Syrian military officials to calm conditions on the border, which continues to see increasing tension.

Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih stressed yesterday that border disputes are not settled by force, but, rather, through dialogue—a reference to the dispute between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Paper Reports Attempted Coup, Assassination

NC3101163395 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1505 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In its 30 January issue, the newspaper AL-MU'TAMAR, organ of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, reports that a new attempt to assassinate the head of the ruling dictatorial regime in Baghdad and to overthrow his regime uncovered.

The newspaper says a group of Air Force and Republican Guard officers planned to carry out the operation on the Iraqi Army anniversary, 6 January. Saddam Husayn was scheduled to attend a parade of the so-called Saddam's Fedayeen Forces on that day.

A report issued by the Iraqi Broadcasting Corporations said all preparations for the operation took place according to plan. However, one of the officers participating in the operation disclosed the plan to Saddam Husayn, who personally executed this officer who blew the whistle on his comrades.

Citing informed sources, the newspaper says 10 officers were arrested and summarily executed.

SAIRI Leader al-Hakim Discusses Internal Situation

On Army Unrest

NC3101194495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1745 GMT 31 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), in Kuwait, by Jihad al-'Idani, in Tehran; date not given; from in the "News and Reports" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-'Idani] Sir, this is your second visit to Kuwait. Kuwait has expressed support for the program you proposed earlier. Is this visit an extension of your first visit, or does it have new dimensions and goals?

[Al-Hakim] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Undoubtedly, the government and people of Kuwait are concerned about the tragic circumstances the Iraqi people are living under. They were, and still are, under threat from the Iraqi regime over their existence and security. Therefore, visits to this country and meetings with people from the various classes of the Kuwaiti people are considered an important part of our work. [passage omitted]

The first topic we discussed is the issue of the political circumstances the Iraqi people are living under now. There is a general rejection among the Iraqi people of the presence of the ruling regime in Baghdad. There is general action on the level of the Iraqi people, particularly among the jihad circles. There are also signs of action in the ranks of the Iraqi Army which is why I call on my brothers the mujahidin to join ranks with their brothers the sons of the Iraqi Army to take a united stand to put pressure on the regime. [passage omitted]

We stressed that regarding the issue of the siege, it is very important to distinguish between imposing a siege on the regime on the one hand, and the Iraqi people on the other. Therefore, we need to find a mechanism that will offer aid and relief to the Iraqi people. When the regime calls for lifting the siege, all it wants is to get the oil money to renovate its military machine and carry out further operations of oppression against the people and the neighboring countries.

We also discussed the matter of relief for the Iraqi people and the importance of having Arab and Islamic sides pay attention to the issue of relief inside Iraq or outside of it, so that the United Nations and its institutions would offer the Iraqi people direct relief and not enable the regime to get to the funds these institutions offer for relief work. Some institutions noted when we met with them that they offer large amounts of money and aid to the regime. But we also know that these funds and aid do not get to the Iraqi people.

[Al-'Idani] You have noted that you expect changes in the Iraqi Government this year. What are the signs you have relied on for this analysis?

[Al-Hakim] We have noted that there is opportunity for change in Iraq in 1995. This opportunity can be understood when seen through the light of a group of major indications in our studies and an evaluation of the domestic situation in Iraq. First, there are indications among the Iraqi Army that the Army has started to clearly reject orders issued by the regime, particularly when the regime wants the Army to carry out large-scale oppression operations against the people. The number of defections from the Iraqi Army is on the rise. In addition, the Iraqi Army circles are not responding to these orders. We learned these things from the operations our mujahidin brothers carried out, which revealed that these conditions exist among the Iraqi Army members. In many cases, there was cooperation among the Iraqi Army members and the mujahidin brothers. [passage omitted]

Says Embargo Not Enough by Itself

LD3101205695 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Jan 95

[Interview with Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, by Muhammad al-Qahtani in Kuwait; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Qahtani] Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, you, and the public in general, have noted through the media the campaign waged by the ruling regime in Baghdad by reporting the suffering of the Iraqi people, while Saddam Husayn should be held as responsible for that suffering. How do you perceive the mode of confrontation, particularly since he has drawn a large number of groups in and outside the Arab world into discussing the embargo and [words indistinct]?

[Al-Hakim] There is an error, which I can describe as big, and a vacuum in the question of confronting the regime. Undoubtedly, the international community is engaged in a wide confrontation against the regime. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qahtani] You are saying that the embargo imposed on the basis of UN Security Council resolutions is responsible for what is happening to the Iraqi people.

[Al-Hakim] As I said, the one who is principally responsible is Saddam—as far as what is happening to the Iraqi people is concerned. Even now; not just originally. He is the one who is mainly responsible now. This is evident in the policies he has been adopting, which have been causing the real tragedies of the Iraqi people. [passage omitted]

The facts must be explained to the world, so that it will become clear that the real criminal, real maleficent, and real destroyer of the Iraqi people is Saddam's regime. Saddam is not concerned about the embargo because it is destroying the people, but because the embargo is depriving him of the oil revenues which he needs to regain his military power. [passage omitted]

He has a policy of exporting internal problems abroad. He has always tried to blame external forces for his problems at home. So far, he has done this directly with three states and indirectly with other states. For example, the states with whom he is in direct confrontation are Iran, Kuwait, and Syria; there are specific crises. He has had indirect confrontation with Egypt. For example, when he had the crisis of Egyptian workers. He immediately created a crisis; the issue of coffins. He started to say that those Egyptian workers were behaving in an immoral way, spying, smuggling currency, and other accusations. [passage omitted]

There has to be a real change in Iraq. This is a clear issue. These facts have to be revealed to the Arab and Islamic world.

[Al-Qahtani] Do you believe the embargo will contribute to changing the Iraqi regime?

[Al-Hakim] I believe that the embargo is not enough on its own. I believe that the embargo is harming the regime but there is a need for a wider operation to bring about change, to which the embargo may contribute.

[Al-Qahtani] However, it is necessary to maintain the embargo.

[Al-Hakim] As I said, Saddam will spend money on two areas in particular when he gets revenue; first on arms, and then on buying political allegiance and continuing repressive action against those who are disloyal to him. This will be the natural outcome of Saddam's capability.

[Al-Qahtani] You are following up reports in some media circles, particularly Arab media, to the effect that your responsibility as an opposition is an alleged responsibility, and that Kuwait's responsibility regarding the maintenance of the embargo on the Iraqi people is also an alleged responsibility [as heard].

[Al-Hakim] We believe that the embargo is not our responsibility. We are not members of the international community officially, neither are we members of the Security Council. However, we would have liked it to be dealt with in a different way if we had been a party in the issue. The issue of the Iraqi people must be discussed; it is only then that the embargo can have a great deal more effect. [passage omitted]

Says 'Real Chance' To Oust Saddam

JN0102100795 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 1 Feb (SANA)—Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has stressed that the Iraqi people have a real chance this year to topple Saddam Husayn. He said the Iraqi Army will respond to any public action to change the regime.

In an interview with AL-QABAS newspaper published here today, al-Hakim said that change in Iraq should take place at the hands of the Iraqi people who should map out future plans for Iraq. He added that the future government should be based on political freedom and respect for Iraq and its unity.

Al-Hakim said Saddam Husayn is destroying the Iraqi people and is trying to use the people as a bargaining chip by reflecting an unrealistic picture of what is happening in Iraq.

Al-Hakim, who is currently visiting Kuwait, said the Kurdish infighting will not affect the plan to topple Saddam, stressing that once the issue is raised all forces will unite to carry it out. He further said that the fears expressed by international and regional powers as a result of changing the regime are meant only to cover up other purposes and issues.

Former Officer: Saddam Uses Poison Against Enemies

MS0102103495 London THE INDEPENDENT in English 1 Feb 95 p 15

[Report by Patrick Cockburn: "Iraq Uses Poison on Political Opponents"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem—Iraqi agents are using the slow acting but deadly poison thallium to eliminate opponents of the Baghdad regime who had thought themselves safe.

A former special forces officer who became a guerrilla leader is being treated for thallium sulphate poisoning in

Britain. Major Safa' al-Battat, 31, fell ill in December after a visit to his headquarters in Kurdistan. After first diagnosing typhoid fever, local doctors recognised that he had the same symptoms as two other opponents of the regime poisoned several years ago. He thinks that the thallium had been put into a bottle of locally made Coca-Cola somebody gave him but says he cannot prove this.

After leaving Iraq through Syria, Major al-Battat is recovering in Cardiff. Another member of the opposition Iraqi National Congress [INC] died from the poison last Saturday, according to an Iraqi source.

Major al-Battat, in a telephone interview with the Independent, said he believed he was singled out for assassination because "I was operating in the south of Iraq in the marshes around Basra. All members of my group used to be officers in the Iraqi army so we were dangerous to them." He had gone north to Shaqlawah, a town under the control of Kurds where the Iraqi opposition has a headquarters to receive fresh orders when he was poisoned—probably in his food.

Major al-Battat, from southern Iraq, says he joined the resistance to Saddam Husayn in 1987 but stayed in the army until the Gulf war in 1991. Since then he has led a guerrilla unit which specialised in intelligence but sometimes made attacks in and around the marshes where the Tigris and Euphrates meet. These are being drained by the government to try to stamp out resistance.

Last November, Iraqi intelligence appears to have begun a campaign to eliminate its Iraqi opponents, particularly those who thought they had found safety beyond the Iraqi lines in Kurdistan. Two other former officers training opposition troops, Abbas Sharara and Bashir al-Mosuli, were killed, one was shot in the head, the other tortured.

Iraqi agents have infiltrated opposition camps. One, intercepted with a file of thallium was planning to poison Ahmad Shalabi, leader of the INC which is based in Shaqlawah. Major al-Battat says he thinks he was poisoned on or about 3 December, but will not say if he knows by whom. The time taken for thallium to kill depends on the dose. At first, the victim feels deep lethargy and then gradual loss of control over his body. "At first I had a pain in the abdomen and I also passed blood," said Major al-Battat.

"In Syria I had convulsions but the doctors did not know what to do so they gave me morphine and valium. I lost control of my bodily functions. Every day I though I would die."

In the past, Saddam Husayn has gone to great lengths to show that his arm is long enough to assassinate opponents wherever they go. His government does not face any serious military threat in the marshes of the south or the Kurdish mountains but his security services are keen to target army officers who have joined the resistance or come from army families.

Doctors who decided Major al-Battat had been given thallium did so because three years ago they had treated two brothers of the al- Jaburi clan from Mosul in northern Iraq, which has provided many senior army officers, for the same poison.

"In the past Saddam depended on money and terror to hold power," says Layth Kubbah, a long standing opponent of the regime. "Now he is without money because of oil sanctions, he must increase the terror."

Last June the government introduced mass mutilation—the amputation of a hand or ear followed by branding on the forehead—to prevent Iraqis avoiding military service and to discourage crime.

Thallium poisoning appears geared to show that, even when they think they have reached safety, the Iraqi leader is still to be feared. Iraqi security forces have long favoured thallium, a heavy metal compound sometimes used as a base for rat poison, against its enemies. It is absorbed by fatty tissue and causes nerve damage and kidney failure. In 1987 and 1988 it was used extensively against the Kurds, on one occasion being mixed with a yoghurt drink by a woman working as an Iraqi agent.

Arab League Envoy Links Arab, Israel NPT Signatures

JN0102095395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Feb (INA)—Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League, has said that Iraq supports any Arab position that calls for linking the Arab states' renewed signature of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] to the agreement of the Zionist entity to sign the treaty.

Answering Arab and foreign journalists' questions yesterday, the Iraqi envoy said that Iraq rejects the notion that any party in the region should have an advantage over the others. Iraq, he said, also stresses that disregarding the Zionist entity's possession of nuclear weapons and concentrating in this regard on certain Arab states is a selective, unfair position that must be categorically rejected.

He added that Iraq stresses the call for linking the renewed signature of NPT to the agreement of the Zionist entity to sign the treaty and to open all nuclear facilities for international inspection since it is the only party in the region that has not signed the valid treaty and refuses to sign the new one.

The Iraqi envoy recalled the resolutions of the 1990 Baghdad summit, which called for a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction, provided that it should include all parties in the region, including the Zionist entity.

Concluding his statements, the Iraqi envoy urged the Arab states to take a decisive position based on concern for Arab national security. He stressed that Iraq supports any Arab move in that direction and will seek to mass international support for it.

INA Cites UNICEF Report on Sanctions Impact

JN3001121895 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Jan 30 (INA)—The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has stressed that some 30,600,000 Iraqis are threatened with various diseases.

In a report dispatched by Quds Press Agency, the UNICEF made it clear that some 1,250,000 out of the said number are children under the age of five. Those children suffer seriously from malnutrition and the reduction of calories needed for a normal body energy.

Moreover, the report added that the Iraqi Government was used to allocate about four billion dollars annually to import necessary foodstuff before the imposition of embargo in August 1990. That allocation is zero now because of the nearly five-year-old trade sanctions.

Mortality rates among children have also largely increased during previous year, the report stressed, warning that most Iraqi hospitals suffer from acute shortages of medicine and the lack of raw materials and spare parts needed to repair out-of-work medical equipment such as x-ray devices.

On the other hand, in cooperation with the UNICEF, Iraq has launched a programme to treat children's psychological traumas resulting from the US-led war against Iraq. The programme is based on a study made by two Norwegian psychologists.

Magne Raunoalen and Atle Dyregrov [names as received] who worked with the Harvard study team of Harvard University conducted a study on the psychological impact of the US-led war on Iraqi children.

Work on the psychological care project for children started in 1992 and it is expected to end in 1995, head of the project Sana' Francis (Iraqi) said.

The project aims at helping traumatized children by extending psychological support for children of the age 4-16 years, said Mrs. Francis.

She added that the project is based on a programme laid by UNICEF to assist and help children who are socially and psychologically affected by the war, noting that psychiatrists working at the project made visits to the most affected areas and selected a number of children for treatment.

The project receives 30 children a week, said Mrs. Francis, adding that over one year, the project examined some 1,200 children as 10 children a day. Teams of psychoanalysts make visits to affected areas and schools to survey and select cases to be covered by the project.

She added that it is shocking that too many children are victimized and the state is going worse than before. The main reason can be attributed to the sanctions imposed on Iraq. It is true that was terrible, but the sanctions seemed more harmful psychological and physically.

According to Mrs. Francis the children they interviewed and studied showed clear signs of serve traumas characterized by intrusive memories from life threatening events.

They use a lot of mental energy to try to avoid reminders and otherwise to evade the overwhelming memories and their negative expectations of a new war to occur any time.

Three days a week are devoted to receiving and examining children while the other three days are devoted to conducting field visits to war-stricken areas and interview children and make survey of the psychological traumas.

Besides treating traumatized children, the project holds refreshing courses for psychoanalysts and teachers, said Mrs. Francis, adding that so far the project trained some 50 psychoanalysts from ministries of education, labour and social affairs, and health.

Plan To Destroy Regime Said Behind Economic Decline

NC2801185095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Jan 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The visit to Moscow by Saddam's trade minister failed to stop the deterioration of the Iraqi currency, the value of which has dropped to an all-time low. Despite all that was said about the visit and the attempts by the regime's press to portray it as important and supportive of Iraq's economy, reality was something else, showing that such attempts, through which the regime is evading the truth, were ineffective. The visit coincided with a new collapse in currency value and a mad rise in prices, causing a popular resentment of the regime's policies, which have led the Iraqi people to this mysterious destiny.

Political observers attributed this new development to the results of the Iraqi opposition meetings in London, especially since the visit to London by His Eminence Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, largely helped find an important ground for the meetings there and for reaching an understanding on a plan to overthrow the regime. According to some reports, the Iraqi opposition set a time limit for the overthrow of the regime in Baghdad.

This heightened the Iraqi peoples' lack of confidence in the regime and raised serious fears, even among the lackeys of the regime, who found in this development a serious threat to them and to their future. This, consequently, shook the confidence in economy, currency, and in all the claims of the criminal regime despite its miserable attempts to control the situation.

This new decline of the Iraqi currency means a further decline in the regime's credibility, and it is a clear failure of the regime's attempts to solve this problem and improve conditions away from any possible influence by the opposition. But His Eminence al-Hakim's visit to London, and the great popularity of the visit, as represented by the warm reception accorded to him and by the readiness of the other Iraqi opposition groups to respond favorably to his plan to establish a unified Iraqi front to quickly overthrow the dictatorial regime to preserve what remained of Iraq, showed the strong predicament of the regime, which is now living terrible moments after it realized the truth of the Iraqi opposition and its ability to influence the domestic and international situation.

PUK Radio Criticizes KDP Economic Siege of Irbil

NC2801173695 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Jan 95

[Station commentary: "The Barzani Leadership Is in a Trench Ruinous for the Kurdish People"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite the fact that the Barzani leadership continues its economic siege of Irbil, cuts water and electricity supplies to numerous areas in the city, and occasionally pounds its suburbs, Irbil has begun to breath a sigh of relief. Regrettable incidents in the city have dropped by 95 percents. The people have begun to feel reassured and calm, particularly after the city was purged of the gangs of killers and looters who belong to the Barzani leadership.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], which since the early days began to settle the situation in Irbil in favor of its inhabitants and the masses of Kurdistan, has exerted the utmost efforts to restore law and order to the city. Irbil currently enjoys security and stability and the government departments continue to offer the necessary services to the citizens.

What is really regrettable is that a political party, namely, the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], which used to claim its concern for Irbil, is imposing an economic siege on the city, starving its people, and cutting water and electricity supplies. The PUK, proceeding from its sense of national, patriotic, and historic responsibility and out of concern for the future of our Kurdish people, has accepted all peaceful plans proposed by the political parties and religious and social personalities. The PUK itself has proposed numerous peaceful plans since the early stages of tension. However, the Barzani leadership has persisted in its intransigence and obduracy and rejected all peaceful overtures to end tension and escalation of the situation in Kurdistan. In its rejection and stubbornness, the KDP leadership relies on the card of economic pressure. Only the dictatorial regime in Baghdad has used this card against our Kurdish people. In a statement to the London newspaper *THE GUARDIAN*, Mas'ud Barzani went so far as to admit that his forces have seized trucks carrying food supplies which were travelling to Irbil, al-Sulaymaniyah, and Karkuk Governorates. This means that Barzani tacitly admits that the masses of Kurdistan and of the PUK have ended up in one trench and the Barzani leadership in another, or rather in a trench hostile to the Kurdish people's aspirations. The Kurdish masses have begun to realize which party insists on fighting and escalating the situation and which one desires to establish and consolidate security and peace in Kurdistan.

The PUK's responsible and principled stand has not been confined to proposing peaceful plans and accepting the proposals of the normalization committees and of men of religion and agreeing with the desire of the Kurdish masses. While the Barzani leadership is starving more than 75 percent of the people of the region of Kurdistan, the PUK, in cooperation with the competent departments in Irbil, has dispatched two trucks loaded with medicines to our brethren in (Bahdinan) to prove its good intentions and to show that it does not discriminate among Kurdistan areas. Thus, the Kurdistan masses have a right to denounce and condemn the practices of the Barzani leadership, which has lost credibility and has become completely isolated from the Kurdish masses, who adopt stands similar to the PUK's. Certainly, any political party that loses the support of the masses for its policies will not succeed or win the loyalty of any Kurdish citizen unless it returns to the right path and to the trench of the people and the homeland.

Bridge Blown Up as PUK-KDP Dispute Continues

LD2901215695 Tehran IRNA in English 2102 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kermanshah, Jan 29, IRNA—Reports from northeastern Iraq indicate that the bridge on Zerm [as received] River in Sayyed Sadiq region was blown up early Sunday morning. Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) which is embroiled in a power struggle with Mas'ud Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) blamed the latter for the blast in its statement. The blowing up of the Zerim bridge has disconnected the transit roads linking three cities and 50 villages.

The representatives of rival groups in the al-Sulaymaniyah parliament left the session in protest to the explosion. Meanwhile, television pictures of the session broadcast by al-Sulaymaniyah television indicated that the representatives of KDP and PUK had failed to reach agreement during their talks.

After the west warned Saddam Husayn not to interfere at all in Kurdish populated northern Iraq in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war (1991), the Kurdish rival groups set up a self-proclaimed government. Iraqi Kurdistan has since been the arena of bloody conflicts between the rival groups.

Writer Lauds 'Heroic' Netanya 'Operation'

JN0102090195 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 26 Jan 95 p 8

["AL-THAWRAH Diary" column by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Ghafur Sulayman: "Blessed Be Those Who Sacrifice Their Lives"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The recent incident against the Zionist occupiers in Palestine heartens, delights, and reassures all honorable people. It is jihad. It is the right way to deter the occupiers and drive them out of the land of the Arabs. Those who carried out this heroic operation represent all the Arabs who reject humiliation and surrender. Their operation has indeed delighted all the faithful.

It is truly regrettable that some members of the Arab people have described the operation as "terrorism" that obstructs the process of surrender. Those people have forgotten what happened at the Ibrahimi Mosque when one of the criminals opened fire on worshipers. This happened under the gaze of the occupation soldiers and with their assistance. We did not hear a single word that condemns the massacre from the agents or from those who established the usurping Zionist entity.

However, when the heroes captured one of the soldiers of the occupation to have some of their comrades released from Zionist prisons, the whole world remained sleepless and shouts of condemnation were heard in all quarters denouncing the operation as an act of terrorism. We conclude, therefore, that the West, the Zionists, and their followers think that the Arabs do not have the same rights they recognize for the Zionists, in spite of the Zionists' falsity, usurpation, and criminality.

In the wake of the heroic fedayeen operation, the President of the unjust United States said: "Once again, the enemies of peace have killed innocent people in a hellish attempt to destroy the hopes of peaceful coexistence." Clinton urged his stooges to condemn this operation. Clinton's statements make him either a liar or a criminal. He is a liar because he supports Zionist terrorism against the Palestinians, as well as terrorism against many innocent people in the world, such as Bosnia, Haiti, and Somalia. The one who practices international terrorism has no right to condemn those who wage legitimate struggle to regain their rights.

Clinton considered this operation a "criminal act," as he put it. He, however, is personally practicing an uglier type of criminality and is persisting in it—blockading an entire people and depriving it of the simplest living requirements. As a result of this blockade, hundreds of women, children, and elderly people have died and millions are suffering without any justification. Is this not criminal conduct, or is U.S. thinking tailored to suit Zionist whims? Those people should remain silent. They have no right to talk about terrorism, crimes, and human rights until they wash their own hands of terrorism and crimes and respect human rights.

Blessed be the martyr heroes of the Nenatya operation and all those who are willing to sacrifice their lives for their homeland and cause. Disgrace and humiliation to everyone who willfully turns a blind eye to justice, whatever his nationality and religion.

*Kazakhstan-U.S. Uranium Deal Linked to Iran Issue

95WP0036A Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 12 Dec 94 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Three American military C-5 transport planes carrying 600 kg of uranium, enough to make 20 nuclear bombs, landed at Dover base in the middle of last month. The arrival of this huge load of radioactive material epitomizes the execution of one of the most secret intelligence operations in the Cold War between America and Russia. This is a very strange operation executed by a big nation in order to deprive another nation—Iran—of owning nuclear arms.

The preparation for this operation started in August 1992. At that time the American CIA received information affirming that Iranian nuclear experts had visited the former Societ Republic of Kazakhstan, which is home to the largest amount of saturated uranium in the disentegrated Soviet republics, in order to learn about the Kazakh nuclear program.

Although the Kazakh Government declared that this information was false, Western intelligence sources affirmed that the Iranian mission brought back with it to Iran small amounts of uranium and beryllium for the Iranian nuclear program, which was scheduled to produce the first bomb within five years. At that time, there were many rumors that Iran had purchased two or three manufactured nuclear weapons from Kazakhstan. These rumors were later proved to be false. The media in the West, Middle East, and Europe were competing in exaggerating those rumors and making up "stories" around them. However, that same year, the Americans convinced the new Russian administration that America was ready to buy the uranium from Kazakhstan and transport it back to the States to be remanufactured. America would then dispatch to Russia the uranium she needed for nuclear fuel. Consequently, the Americans succeeded in stopping the Kazakhs from selling to Iran the radioactive material she had dreamed of. A meeting that could be described as a "war council"—composed of representatives from the CIA, the Pentagon, and the State Department—to discuss means to acquire the Kazakh uranium before it was passed to the "United States' enemies abroad" was convened in Washington. This meeting was convened in case the Russians refused the American proposal. During the Washington meeting, the Pentagon submitted a military proposal to send an

American special force to occupy the huge factory located at Ulba, which lies 1,500 km northeast of the Kazakh capital. The factory employs 14,000 workers and contains 1,000 metal cubes filled with stored uranium material.

However, at the end, it was decided to ask the American ambassador in Kazakhstan, William Courtney, to conduct diplomatic negotiations with the Kazakh Government. At that time, since Washington had agreed to pay a few million dollars, the American State Department was negotiating with Moscow in order to secure her agreement for America to transport the uranium.

The American air operation named "ruby" (because of the scarcity and importance of uranium) was the result of the two-year negotiations and was executed last November. Thirty-one American nuclear experts aboard three military planes made a non-stop flight from Dover base to Kazakhstan and landed at Ulba airport. Accompanying the nuclear experts was a special forces division that carried to the United States the 600 kg of uranium that was contained in the metal cubes. The American President Bill Clinton had signed the transportation plan that was submitted for his endorsement on 7 October 1994.

As soon as the uranium arrived at Dover base, it was transported to a nuclear storage base near the Oak Ridge region in Tennessee. In this manner, Iranians would be unable to meet their need for this important material for the manufacture of their nuclear weapons. Although the Americans are still convinced that their operation may slow down the Iranian effort to meet their goal, it will neither stop nor put an end to this effort.

Peres: No Room for Gestures on Nuclear Issue

TA3101142295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held a telephone conversation with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. This was reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz. No details are known, and the prime minister's bureau is refusing to comment on the talks.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will go to Egypt tomorrow for a meeting with President Mubarak. [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Peres said today that there is no room for Israeli gestures in the nuclear issue. Mr. Peres emphasized Israel has a long- standing and consistent position on this issue.

Peres on Upcoming Meeting With Egyptian Leaders

TA3101181095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that, in his meeting with Egypt's leaders tomorrow, he will remind them that Israel is the only country in the Middle East that other countries want to destroy.

Mr. Peres recalled that several days ago Saddam Husayn asked when the missile attacks against Israel will be resumed. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the foreign minister said he would ask the Egyptians whether they expect us to tell Iran and Iraq—who want to harm us—that they are free to go on without any fear. Foreign Minister Peres said that, on the contrary, their fear is Israel's deterrence.

Egypt Reportedly To Be Given Tour of Nuclear Facility

NC0102093095 Paris AFP in English 0735 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Feb 1 (AFP)—Israel will offer Wednesday [1 February] to take Egyptian experts on an unprecedented tour of a nuclear reactor in a bid to cool a war of words over the Jewish state's nuclear policy, a foreign ministry official said.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres would put the proposal to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak when they meet later in the day in Cairo, said the senior official who refused to be named.

Before leaving for the Egyptian capital, Peres was due to raise the nuclear issue with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

"This is an unprecedented gesture because it is an invitation specially for the Egyptians to meet their Israeli colleagues," the official said.

The gesture was intended to ease tension between the two countries following Egyptian threats not to sign the Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty when it comes up for renewal in April-May unless Israel agrees to join up, even at a later date, he added.

Until now only members of the International Atomic Energy Agency have been allowed into part of the reactor site at Nahal Soreq, south of Tel Aviv, built with US assistance in 1960.

Israel has refused to allow any international inspection of secret facilities at Dimona in the Negev desert.

Peres reiterated Wednesday that Israel would not sign the treaty because it is "the only country still threatened by other states such as Iran, Iraq and Libya.

"The fear of these other states who think we have nuclear weapons is our deterrent."

"We have always said we will not be the first to introduce atomic weapons in the region. The fog which covers the issue is our deterrent," he added.

The right-wing opposition Likud Party has accused Peres of going to Cairo to make nuclear concessions to Egypt.

The Jewish state will not comment on foreign reports that it possesses 200 nuclear warheads.

Israel says it wants peace to become a reality in the Middle East before negotiating nuclear disarmament.

Minister: Population Does Not Support Peace Process

TA3101191795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-'Eli'ezer says most of the Israeli population does not support the peace process with the Palestinians and no Israeli Government can make progress without the backing of the people.

He told Israeli reporters in Washington that personal safety has dwindled to zero and it was difficult to go on to the next stage in the settlement without a solution to the security problem. In this situation, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from population centers in the West Bank will be a complete abandonment of 150,000 Jews living there. It was wrong to do this, he said.

Ben-Eli'ezer added he still believed in the peace process, but he thought it would take a long time because the Palestinians have failed to carry out their promises. He said Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] next move would be to liquidate Yasir 'Arafat, who is not in control, completely contrary to his promises.

[Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 31 January, in an announcer-read report on Minister Ben-Eli'ezer's remarks in Washington, adds: "Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer today recommended stopping the peace process with the Palestinians until the security issue is dealt with."

["Reacting to Minister Ben-Eli'ezer's remarks, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening said that occasionally ministers speak nonsense."

[Later, the same newscast adds: "The storm caused by Minister Ben-'Eli'ezer's call to stop the peace process has already reached Washington. A short time ago Minister Ben-'Eli'ezer corrected himself by adding that the government is committed to the peace process, but at the same time the problems must be put on the table and treated in detail."]

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Involvement in Peace Process

TA3101162195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Jan 95 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar from Washington: "The Lame Duck Offers a Crutch"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Americans do not need to send a special envoy to Jerusalem to know that the Rabin government and the peace process are in big trouble. If the United States was not worried about the situation, it should check its Middle East experts into a hospital for observation. If Bill Clinton had not been trying to remove obstacles from Yitzhaq Rabin's way, he would have been betraying his promise "to minimize the risks undertaken by Israel for the sake of peace."

The U.S. President does not prefer Rabin over Binyamin Netanyahu. Like all his predecessors in the White House, he believes that Labor's policy serves U.S. interests in the Middle East more than the Greater Israel concept does. He wants to stabilize Rabin's government because the prime minister holds the key to the success of the peace process in the next two years.

The problem is not that Clinton meddles in Israeli politics, but that he does not help Rabin enough. Unfortunately, since the November 1994 defeat in Congress, the most Clinton can offer Rabin is one of the crutches he uses to stand up to the Republican Congress and to keep from falling down.

Prominent commentators such as William Safire, Abe Rosenthal, and Charles Krauthammer, seized on to the Bet Lid bombing to remind their readers that they had questioned the credibility of the Palestinians from the outset. Clinton, who proffered his auspices to the peace process, took some of the credit for it and received a great deal of exposure, is anxious about the fate of one of the few foreign policy achievements on which he can boast.

Indeed, he very much wants Rabin to be reelected in November 1996, but there is something he wants even more: to have Clinton reelected in November 1996. He wants to make peace in the Middle East without getting America's feet wet. The U.S. President hastened to sign an order freezing the assets of Arabs who have no idea what the inside of a U.S. bank looks like because Islamic fanatics (as well as Jewish ones from Kahana Hay and Kakh) have no advocates in Congress. Their electoral value is as weighty as that of the Gaza Strip. Consequently, when it arrives, the aid to strengthen the moderates in the Palestinian Authority will be too little and too late to balance the frustration. The Clinton administration reluctantly dishes out $100 million a year for the unemployed in the Gaza Strip—2.5 percent of the aid to Israel's citizens, whose median income is about 20 times higher. Arabists at the State Department have not enjoyed this kind of grace period since the loan guarantees-settlements dispute. The Rabin government's reticence about the negotiations on the expansion of the autonomy and elections in the territories, coupled with the intense building in the settlements, remind them of Yitzhaq Shamir's good old days. They flaunt opinion polls and editorials from Tel Aviv to prove narrow Israeli support for a compromise with the Arabs. A few dozen dead are enough to expose the true face of the Rabin government, say Lawrence of Arabia's disciples. Two or three Muslim suicides prove their argument that all the Jews are the same and that this process will not yield a just peace for the Arabs.

The Clinton administration failed to take advantage of the momentum of the Oslo accords and the credit the Rabin government received at home and in the Arab world. In the aftermath of tough elections and a hostile Congress, it is not expected that in the next two years it will do what it failed to do when it controlled the White House and Capitol Hill. Any pressure on Israel, however moderate, is out of the question. Rabin can decide that Jerusalem's city limits stretch all the way to Nabulus in the north and Hebron in the south and no American will complain about the creeping annexation. The Democrats are busy competing with the Republicans about the relocation of their embassy from Tel Aviv to what they consider Israel's controversial capital.

What a waste! Ari'el Sharon and Pli'a Albeck can now have an unrestrained field day. Israel and the Palestinians conceived the Oslo agreement because of a sterile U.S. policy based on the principle of never upsetting the Jews. The U.S. peace team sneered at the direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan. All that was left for it to do was give its blessing to the final results and scrape up $200 million to write off part of Amman's debts.

The peace team always thought that the key to an arrangement was and remains in Damascus's hands. The cheeky statements issued by Islamic Jihad from the Syrian capital and Hizballah's attacks from south Lebanon confirm their belief that only an arrangement with Hafiz al-Asad can extricate the peace process from its deep freeze. An administration that proposes that "the sides" work it out themselves and merely invites them to an award-winning ceremony should expect the Syrians to tell them to go to hell each time they urges the Syrians to close down the headquarters of the terrorist organizations. What incentive does al-Asad have to use his bargaining chips if he is not rewarded for his good behavior or asked to pay a price for violence?

Were Clinton to devote some of the time he spends worrying about his own political position to thinking about Rabin's predicament, he would not make do with Warren Christopher's refrain that "the leaders of Israel and Syria will soon be called upon to make fateful decisions."

Qedumim Settlers: IDF Agrees To Let Them Man Position

TA3101125295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Residents of the Samaria settlement of Qedumim say that they have reached an agreement with a senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer under which they will man the position vacated by the IDF near the village of Jit during hours the soldiers are not there.

The representatives of the settlers told our correspondent Gay Qotev that it was agreed that the soldiers would man the position in the morning, the afternoon, and in the late evening. At other times, the settlers would secure the road leading to Shavey Shomron under the supervision of one of the settlement's security officers.

In reaction, an IDF spokesman said that the army adopted various measures to guarantee the security of those living in the area, in accordance with standard operating procedures.

IDF Spokesman Denies Agreement

TA3101153295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has denied the claim of Qedumim settlers that they have reached an agreement on the manning of a position vacated by the IDF near the village of Jit.

The IDF spokesman explained that the Qedumim settlers are not entitled to carry out security operations outside the settlements, adding that the security responsibility rests solely in the IDF's hands.

This was the IDF spokesman's reaction to the remarks made by the settlers to our correspondent Gay Qotev that it was agreed on with a senior IDF officer that the IDF soldiers would man the position in the morning, the afternoon, and the late evening. At other times the settlers would secure the road leading to Shavey Shomron under the supervision of one of the settlements' security officers.

Hamas Database Discovered; Linked to Jordan, Germany

TA3101142795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Nabulus military court meted out a three and a half year prison sentence and an additional three and a half year suspended sentence to a computer expert who operated the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] database and who linked the squads in the territories with the headquarters in Jordan.

'Abd-al-Rahman Zaydan prepared a computerized database that included dozens of Hamas terrorists, as well as phone and fax numbers of activists in Israel, Jordan, and Germany.

Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that following Zaydan's arrest terrorists were apprehended and the Hamas method of operation was uncovered. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Raid Hamas' West Bank Charities

TA0102060095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces have begun operating against the charity committees of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Judaea and Samaria. Last night they raided the offices of the charity committee in Ramallah, searched them, and confiscated documents. Security officials believe that some of the money raised by these committees is used to finance the activities of Hamas' military wing.

Shahaq Briefs Committee on Fatah Attacks, Tension in Gaza

TA3101180795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Even as the violence took place in south Lebanon, the army chief of staff, Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq, was appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee speaking of the stepped-up activity against both the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army].

Gen. Shahaq was making his first appearance before the committee as chief of staff. He also spoke of extremely high amounts of tension between the Palestinian police force and Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip. Gen. Shahaq also said that Fatah has been responsible for more than one terrorist attack since the signing of the Declaration of Principles. David Ze'ev reports:

[Ze'ev] The chief of staff says Hizballah continues with massive activity against both the Israeli Army and its ally, the SLA, throughout the Israeli security zone in southern Lebanon. Planting bombs is only one of the methods of carrying out attacks, along with short-range fire and artillery fire at army outposts. Lt. Gen. Amnon Shahaq was quoted by a Knesset official present at the closed-door Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting.

The army chief said Palestinians have also stepped up their activity in Lebanon against Israel, coordinated with and receiving assistance from Hizballah. Gen. Shahaq confirmed that there is a morale problem among the SLA soldiers, primarily—apparently—over the uncertainty of their future. The chief of staff said Israel is trying to help by raising their salaries.

In Gaza, Gen. Shahaq said there is a very large amount of tension—in his words—between Palestinian police and Israeli soldiers. The tensions have grown, he said, since 2 January after three Palestinian police were killed by Israeli soldiers. The closure, the army chief conceded, is making the situation worse, though he said the closure helps Israel on the security level. Shahaq said the army's

Southern Command is working to ease the tensions, which he says also exist among the Jewish residents in the Qatif Bloc of settlements.

On the ability of suicide attackers to cross from the Gaza Strip into Israel, the army chief said he cannot guarantee that Yasir 'Arafat could prevent every terrorist from getting out to carry out an attack. But, he said, the Palestinian Authority [PA] could do more, and if it is in the PA's interest to make the agreement with Israel work, it will operate with greater determination.

The chief of staff indicated he would recommend better security arrangements for Israel in the West Bank than those in Gaza currently. Asked about that in the committee, Gen. Shahaq said: If the arrangements in the West Bank will be similar to those in Gaza and Jericho, it would be difficult for us to go in, to carry out arrests, or to apprehend those wanted for investigations.

Also in response to a question, Gen. Shahaq said assertively, though in broad terms, he is against the release of any terrorist prisoner who could potentially carry out more attacks.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 31 January adds: "Lt. Gen. Shahaq disclosed that the possibility is being examined of erecting an electronic fence in the northern part of the Gaza Strip, from the port of Gaza to the Erez checkpoint."

[The report goes on to say that "Likud Knesset Member Beni Begin claimed in the committee that he is in possession of a classified document submitted by the IDF's Planning Department to the Foreign Ministry which contains an interesting conclusion: The Palestinian Authority believes it is not duty-bound to fulfill clauses in the Oslo agreement that it does not approve of, unless Israel has a means to enforce them."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 31 January adds: "Lt. Gen. Shahaq said that Israel has relayed a message to the Lebanese Government, demanding that it stop giving the residents of south Lebanon a hard time and that it stop afflicting them with administrative punishments for their cooperation with Israel."]

Ben-Eli'ezer on Opposition to Total Withdrawal From Golan

TA0102085295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer stated in Washington yesterday that Israel will not hand over the early-warning station on Mount Hermon to Syria and that it will not withdraw to the 1967 borders. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Golan] Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer reiterated that he supports the continuation of the peace process. He asserted that improving personal safety conditions is a prerequisite for progress with the Palestinians. He also disclosed his red line on the issue of the Golan: opposition to a total withdrawal from the entire Golan Heights.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I said that we are definitely not talking about returning the entire Golan Heights.

[Golan] Does that include Mount Hermon?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I did not mention Mount Hermon. What I said is that in my opinion, even if we recognize the fact that Mount Hermon is Syrian land it will be necessary to place an early-warning station there.

[Golan] Earlier, in an address to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, the minister warned that continued terror could hurt Labor in the next elections since voters will cast an emotional vote for what he believes is the wrong party.

[Ben-Eli'ezer, in English] If the terrorist acts continue, the result is almost certain; to wit, our voters' judgment will be clouded, leading them to make emotional and mistaken decisions over the question of which political party should be elected to govern.

[Golan] This afternoon, Minister Ben-Eli'ezer will confer with peace talks coordinator Dennis Ross and will later fly to Toronto. [end recording]

New Jerusalem Neighborhood Approved on Confiscated Land

TA0102125395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem Municipality's Planning and Construction Committee has given its approval to immediately begin the construction of a new neighborhood in Har Homa in the southern part of the city. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky points out that it will be built on 2,000 dunams of land confiscated from Jews and Arabs near the village of Sur Bahir. Some 6,500 houses will be built on the site.

Beilin, Tzur on Peace Process, Separation Policy

TA3101112695 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 31 Jan 95 p 3

[Report by Yehuda Tzur]

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, speaking before members of the Labor Party's Ef'al circle, headed by Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur, said that "the suicide terrorist attacks perpetrated by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] stem from weakness and despair."

Beilin said that "speeding up the peace process is currently the government's most important goal and constitutes the correct way to deal with terrorism."

Beilin expressed support for the policy of separation and said that in his opinion, the question of the autonomy's borders in Judaea and Samaria is one of the simplest problems to resolve. Beilin warned that a protracted freeze of the peace process would harm Labor's chances in the next elections.

The deputy foreign minister asserted that a hesitant leadership is the worst thing that could befall the country. "It is better to adopt a wrong policy than to appear indecisive in the eyes of the public," he said. Beilin added that "expanding the settlements in the Greater Jerusalem area is a very serious mistake that does not serve any purpose."

Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur voiced his reservations with regard to Beilin's statements. Tzur said that the greatest problem in the peace process is the fact that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has failed to control or disarm Hamas. "The continuation of the peace process should be made conditional on the Palestinian Authority's imposing its authority on all sectors of Palestinian society," Tzur said. The agriculture minister expressed support for the policy of separation and said it would facilitate unilateral action whenever necessary.

Minister Tzur said that the price of separation may entail the development of an independent Palestinian entity.

Paper Urges Rabin To Admit Oslo Accord 'Mistake'

TA3101113695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Jan 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Admirable Admission"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is tempting to deride the government, as Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu did yesterday, for incompetence, indecision and insincerity in its handling of the stock market tax. It is a government whose prime minister at first solemnly promised that there would be no such tax as long as he served as premier; a government which then made a 180-degree turn and imposed a tax so convoluted that it proved not only grossly unfair but uncollectible.

Only diminishing popularity in opinion polls and complaints from big investors and speculators made it rescind its decision and cancel the tax altogether, cynically ignoring all the persuasive arguments it had made in its favor.

But there is something to be said for a government that confesses error and changes course when it realizes it has made one. After all, "we were wrong" are the most difficult words in public life. That the government has uttered them is a tribute to its courage and honesty. For this, it deserves nothing but the highest praise.

That Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin chose not to make Finance Minister Avraham Shohat a scapegoat by demanding his resignation is also commendable. The decision to impose the tax in its unacceptable form was Rabin's, and it is his duty, not Shohat's, to bear the brunt of the mistake. Nor will his decision reflect badly on his government. The public will undoubtedly remember this course-correction approvingly, and probably forget the zigzagging that preceded it.

There is no doubt, too, that the public will appreciate similar honesty in relation to what Shohat, in a heated exchange with Rabin on Sunday [29 January], termed the other government mistake—the Oslo agreement. True, the gravity and implications of the Oslo blunder are infinitely greater than those of the bourse tax. But the process has not been dissimilar.

As in the case of the tax, Rabin made a decision on the Oslo negotiations which was diametrically opposed to his previous solemn pledges. (No one had been more adamant in opposing negotiations with Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO than Rabin himself). And as in the case of the tax, he allowed himself to be persuaded by members of his government who painted a totally unrealistic picture of the decision's possible consequences. To his credit, in this case, too, he soon realized that he had lent himself to a fatally flawed move.

Now he must muster the kind of political courage that only few in Israel's history have shown. The Israel-PLO agreement has been hailed by the whole world as a giant step to peace. Because of it, Rabin, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and 'Arafat have received the Nobel Peace Prize. Because of it, too, Arab regimes in North Africa and the Gulf have thawed their relations with Israel. The world community, expecting the agreement to bring about an Israeli withdrawal to the 1949 armistice lines and the creation of a Palestinian state, will view its abrogation censoriously.

But the people of Israel will be relieved by the government's admission that the agreement was a mistake and support efforts to reverse it. It was Rabin who said that the "Gaza and Jericho first" stage was a test, and that everything was reversible if the test failed.

Now is the time for him to focus his energies on persuading the world that the test's failure proves that the agreement is an invitation to war, not a path to peace, and that the international community must support Israel's search for a viable alternative.

King Inspects 'Liberated' Land, Speaks to Troops

JN3101182695 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1730 GMT 31 Jan 95

[From the "News Headlines" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king made an inspection tour of the Jordanian lands restored yesterday in line with the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. His majesty was briefed on the arrangements taken to restore full Jordanian sovereignty on the liberated land.

The king also spoke to soldiers and officers and affirmed that Jordanians will safeguard and protect the liberated land for the sake of the forthcoming generation.

King Appoints al-Mu'ashshir Envoy to Israel

JN0102075895 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Feb 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-RA'Y—A royal decree has been issued appointing Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, who is an ambassador at the Foreign Ministry, as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the State of Israel.

King Husayn To Visit Egypt for Four-Way Talks

JN0102123195 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Majesty King Husayn will visit Cairo tomorrow upon an invitation by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. During his visit, his majesty is likely to hold a joint meeting with the leaders of Egypt, Israel, and the Palestinian National Authority.

Talks will center on the current status of the peace process as well as other issues relating to the Palestinian-Israeli autonomy accord signed in Cairo last year. The four sides will review various means to push forward the peace process and overcome obstacles in the way of achieving a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region.

Cabinet Endorses Accords With Palestinian Authority

JN0102101095 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Feb 95 pp 1, 31

[Report by Hani al-Duwayk]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The cabinet held a session yesterday evening under Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir during which it endorsed the General Agreement for Cooperation and Coordination between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. It also endorsed the seven executive agreements signed with the PNA in the fields of education, information and culture, monetary and banking affairs, trade, post and communications, transportation, and administrative affairs. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister al-Kabariti Visits UAE, Bahrain

Departs for Abu Dhabi

JN3001093695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti left Amman this morning for Abu Dhabi at the beginning of a tour that includes the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and the State of Bahrain. The visit comes at the invitation of his counterparts in the two sisterly states.

The two-day tour comes within the framework of joint Arab efforts to cleanse the Arab atmosphere and overcome the current state of the nation's affairs. It is also part of strenuous efforts being exerted to make Arab relations equal to the requirements of the current stage, Arab interests, and pan-Arab security.

Returns to Amman

JN3101185795 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al- Kabariti has returned home at the end of a two-day tour of the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Mr. al-Kabariti delivered a message from his majesty the king to the amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah on efforts aimed at Arab reconciliation.

List of Legalized Jordanian Political Parties

JN1201114595

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a list of all legalized Jordanian political parties compiled from Jordanian and other sources. The number of members/followers is unknown.

1. **Al-'Ahd (Pledge) Party** (Hizb al-'Ahd)
Date licensed: 7 December 1992
Secretary general: 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali (retired former Army chief of staff and Public Security director; current House member)
(A pro-establishment conservative party)
Publication: AL-'AHD (weekly)

2. **Al-Ahrar (Liberals) Party** (Hizb al-Ahrar)
Date licensed: 21 October 1994
Secretary general: Ahmad al-Zu'bi (lawyer)
(No details available on platform of this party)

3. **Al-Hurriyah (Freedom) Party** (Hizb al-Hurriyah)
Date licensed: 10 February 1993
Secretary general: Fawwaz al-Zu'bi (ex-communist and veteran political activist)
(A left-wing party)
Publication: AL-HURRIYAH (not published yet)

4. **Al-Mustaqbal (Future) Party** (Hizb al-Mustaqbal)
Date licensed: 8 December 1992

Secretary general: Sulayman 'Arar (ex-minister and ex-House speaker)
(Conservative pro-establishment party espousing pan-Arab principles and comprising businessmen and former senior government officials and House members)
Publication: AL-MUSTAQBAL (weekly)

5. **Al-Watan (Homeland) Party**
Date licensed: 14 June 1993
Leader: 'Akif al-Fayiz
Deputy leader: Ghalib Abu-Jabir
Secretary general: Bahjat al-Majali
(Pro-establishment party, although it has recently issued a statement opposing the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty)

6. **Al-Yaqazah (Awakening) Party** (Hizb al-Yaqazah)
Date licensed: 8 February 1993
Secretary general: 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah (deputy prime minister, education minister, and House member)
(Pro-establishment party)

7. **Constitutional Jordanian Arab Front Party** (Hizb al-Jabhah al Urduniyah al-'Arabiyah al-Dusturiyah)
Date licensed: Unknown
Leader: Milhim al-Tall (former pan-Arab Ba'thist close to the Ba'th Party in Syria; during unsuccessful campaign for House seat in 1989 legislative elections, he advocated union with Syria.)
(According to press reports, the party is almost exclusively composed of ex-Syrian Ba'th Party followers)

8. **Democratic Arab Islamic Movement Party-Du'a'** (Hizb al-Harakah al-'Arabiyah al-Islamiyah al-Dimuqratiyah-Du'a')
Date licensed: 12 April 1993
Secretary general: Yusuf Abu-Bakr
Secretary: Muhammad Abu-'Ajamiyah
(Moderate Islamic party comprising Muslims and Christians)
Publication: AL-'ASR AL-JADID (licensed on 19 June 1993; ceased publication)

9. **Democratic Arab Unionist Party-Wa'd** (Al-Hizb al-Wahdawi al 'Arabi al-Dimuqrati-Wa'd)
Date licensed: 17 February 1993
Secretary general: Anis al-Mu'ashshir (ex-minister and president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature)
Assistant secretary general: Talal al-'Umari
(Liberal pro-establishment party)

10. **Islamic Action Front (IAF)** (Jabhat al-'Amal al-Islami)
Date licensed: 8 December 1992
Secretary general: Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan (ex-minister and Senate member)
(Muslim Brotherhood-dominated party)

11. **Jordanian Arab Democratic Party** (Al-Hizb al-'Arabi al Dimuqrati al-Urduni)
Date licensed: 12 July 1993
Secretary general: Mu'nis al-Razzaz (ex-Ba'thist and columnist)
(Pan-Arab nationalist party; believes there should be no normalization with Israel before restoration of Palestinian rights. According to a press report in the 12 January 1995 issue of AL-RA'Y, 17 party members resigned due to the absence of "democracy within the party" and the party's "support for a Palestinian side against its Palestinian leadership, something which harms Jordanian-Palestinian relations.")

12. **Jordanian Arab Masses Party** (Hizb al-Jamahir al-'Arabi al Urduni)
Date licensed: 27 May 1993
Secretary general: 'Abd-al-Khaliq Shatat
(Pan-Arab party headquartered in Irbid)

13. **Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party** (Hizb al-Ba'th al 'Arabi al-Ishtiraki al-Urduni)
Date licensed: 18 January 1993
Command first secretary: Taysir Salamah al-Himsi (pharmacist)
Official spokesman: Ahmad al-Najdawi (lawyer, Iraqi-wing Ba'thist)
Publication: AL-BA'TH (ceased publication)

14. **Jordanian Communist Party (JCP)** (Al-Hizb al-Shuyu'i al Urduni)
Date licensed: 17 January 1993
Secretary general: Ya'qub Zayadin, MD (longtime communist and party leader)
(The party, established 40 years ago, held its first public congress in Amman on 21-24 April 1993, reelecting Zayadin as secretary general)
Publication: AL-JAMAHIR (fortnightly)

15. **Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party** (Hizb al-Wahdah al Sha'biyah al-Dimuqrati al-Urduni)
Date licensed: 9 February 1993
Secretary general: 'Azmi al-Khawaja (ex-member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP)
(Left-wing party and a Jordanian offshoot of George Habash's PFLP)
Publication: NIDA' AL-WATAN (reportedly ceased publication)

16. **Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party** (Al-Hizb al-Taqaddumi al-Dimuqrati al-Urduni)
Date licensed: 16 January 1993
Secretary general: 'Ali 'Amir (ex-member of the Palestine National Council and of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, DFLP, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh wing)
(Left-wing splinter group of the Jordanian People's Democratic Party Hashd)
Publication: AL-MASIRAH (ceased publication)

17. **Jordanian National Alliance Party** (Hizb al-Tajammu' al-Watani al-Urduni)
Date licensed: 2 December 1992
Secretary general: Mijhim al-Khurayshah (ex-al-Balqa' governor and ex-Palace and Cabinet adviser)

(Pro-establishment tribal-based conservative party comprising several tribal leaders and figures from the central and southern regions)
Publication: SAWT AL-URDUN (not published yet)

18. **Jordanian People's Democratic Party-Hashd** (Hizb al-Sha'b al Dimuqrati al-Urduni "Hashd")
Date licensed: 24 January 1993
Secretary general: Taysir al-Zibri (ex-DFLP member)
(Jordanian offshoot of the DFLP-Nayif Hawatimah wing)
Publication: AL-AHALI (weekly)

19. **Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party** (Al-Hizb al-Dimuqrati al-Ishtiraki al-Urduni)
Date licensed: 27 January 1993
Secretary general: 'Isa Madanat (ex-House and Communist Party member)
(Splinter group of the Jordanian Communist Party)
Publication: AL-FAJR AL-JADID (ceased publication)

20. **Pan-Arab Action Front Party** (Hizb Jabhat al-'Amal al-Qawmi)
Date licensed: 10 January 1994
Secretary general: Muhammad al-Zu'bi
Assistants: Ahmad Mahmud Ibrahim, Shams 'Abd-al-Karim, and 'Ali al-Hamshari
Spokesman: Salim Suways
(Left-wing party advocating "all forms of struggle" to liberate all occupied Arab territories, it is composed of the unlicensed Arab Socialist Ba'th Party-Unified Command, the Jordanian Revolutionary People's Party, the Arab Popular Liberation Movement, and independent Arab "nationalists")

21. **Popular Unity Party-the Unionists** (Hizb al-Wahdah al Sha'biyah-al-Wahdawiyun)
Date licensed: 7 December 1992
Secretary general: Talal al-Ramahi (Palestinian and ex-Fatah affiliate)
(Liberal pro-establishment pan-Arab party)

22. **Progress and Justice Party** (Hizb al-Taqaddum Wa al-'Adalah)
Date licensed: 27 January 1993
Secretary general: 'Ali Farid al-Sa'd (a businessman)
(Independent pro-establishment party)
Publication: AL-WATAN (monthly)

23. **Progressive Arab Ba'th Party** (Hizb al-Ba'th al-'Arabi al Taqaddumi)
Date licensed: 13 April 1993
Command secretary: Mahmud al-Ma'ayitah
Official spokesman: Fu'ad Dabbur
(Pan-Arabist party adopting Ba'thism as its slogan and seeking solidarity and unity among the Arab states)

Editor Warns U.S. of Consequences of 'War' on Muslims

NC0102113195 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 26 Jan 95 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Talal Salman: "War Against Peace and Islam"]

[FBIS Translated Text] From an all-out Israeli war against the Arabs and some Muslims, we move to an all-out American war against Islam and Muslims, including "some" Arabs, especially those who refuse to sign capitulation agreements and to cancel themselves out unconditionally.

Instead of working for the just, lasting, and comprehensive peace it pledged to sponsor and maintain (when was this peace established?), the only superpower, with its weak and mortgaged administration, is exceeding what Israel is doing or demanding. It is declaring a comprehensive war against Islam and Muslims of all nationalities and persuasions, including those who hold American nationality and who previously fought against their brothers in nation and religion to protect American interests (perhaps we can list Lebanon in 1983 or Kuwait, Iraq, and the entire Gulf in 1991).

It is as if there is a universal decision to spill the blood of Muslims!

No blood is now profanely and contemptibly being shed except for the blood of Muslims, including the Arabs and Christians among them, from Bosnia-Herzegovina, through Chechnya and Lebanon, to occupied Palestine. But this is another subject, which we do not intend to discuss here and now.

The leader of the free world and the universal advocate of human rights and market economy is shedding the blood of the American Constitution itself, violating the sacred rights of the Americans themselves, doing it as hypocrisy for Israel and in support of its "socialist" government under Yitzhaq Rabin!

In the United States, millions of dollars were once collected, perhaps are still being collected, under the slogan of "pay one dollar, kill one Arab."

And in this same United States American citizens are forced to pay a "royalty" to Israel. They are being deprived of some of their income so that huge military and economic assistance can be provided to the state that mastered daily killings and constant aggression against its Arab "neighbors."

Clinton's administration is saying it loud and clear: Israel is more important than the American Constitution, more important than the American citizen and his personal freedoms and political rights as a human being!

It is violating the rights of its citizens of Arab origin and those embracing the Islamic faith, legalizing spying on them, placing them under watch, tapping their telephone conversations, and confiscating their private funds under the pretext of protecting Israel from those Israel is persecuting and the Israeli Army is pursuing in the streets of the West Bank villages and cities, including holy Jerusalem.

Clinton's administration is opening the door wide to those who collect "royalties" and "donations" to finance the building of settlements on the land that Israel has lately acknowledged (though implicitly) as Palestinian and to support the Israeli Government in its continuing occupation of some parts of the south and Western al-Biqa' in Lebanon.

It is open, all-out war.

It is an Israeli war, even if joined or led by the United States.

It is a war that tangibly proves what no longer needs to be proven: American policy toward the Arabs, and now toward Muslims in general, is purely an Israeli policy!

Indeed Washington is more vicious than the Israelis in this war. It is not surprising that Rabin appears more moderate than Bill Clinton. The one who broke the bones of Palestinian children is never tired of claiming that he supports continuing "the peace process" and that he insists on achieving a comprehensive peace, while the weak American President involves himself in a comprehensive war against Arabs and Muslims!

It is a war that goes beyond soldiers and battlefields, whether active or cold, to include economy and all means of business and living, human rights, and the foundations of the "liberal" system in the "free world" itself.

It is as though the entire West is telling Arabs and Muslims (perhaps all humanity) that this system was adopted for the sake of Israel, and that it will remain as long as it is fit to perpetuate Israel's existence, expand its occupation, and speed up the creation of its empire.

This reckless and unprecedented American conduct has only one interpretation: It is an assassination of the peace process itself and an evasion of the commitments the United States made to the Arab sides in Madrid in particular and to the world in general.

And it is a fatal "peace" anyway.

Israel needs it in that it cancels outs its enemies in the opposing trench.

Israel recognized Anwar al-Sadat to cancel out Egypt, recognized Yasir 'Arafat to cancel out Palestine (and with it the PLO), and recognized King Husayn to cancel out Jordan (as a project for a Palestinian entity, even if only in part).

As for Lebanon, the option was that the country should cancel out itself, its identity, its independence, its sovereignty over its territory, and consequently its state so that it could later be recognized, though as occupied land!

With Damascus, Israel is trying to bargain with the return of the Golan for the cancellation of Syria as a state, a role, a leadership, a people, a land, and a cause.

It is offering the Arabs only death: death in war or death under the banner of its "peace," more honorable than which is suicide.

This is understood, therefore is rejected by those who reject suicide or slow death under the pressure of the daily Israeli humiliation.

That the United States publicly enters this Israeli war and expands the circle of death and revenge to include everyone who said "no" to the Israeli occupation and expansion is a reckless action harmful to the Americans. It destroys Washington claims of protecting democracy, sponsoring human rights, seeking to besiege or bring down dictatorships, and the long list of other best-selling American propaganda inventions.

The U.S. Administration is harming the reputation of its country, the interests of its country, and the citizens of its country to please a handful of fanatics, killers, and racists in Israel.

Such a war, in which the U.S. Administration is involved, is apt to protract and to quickly generate new situations worldwide. It will force many hesitant and undecided people to make their decision and grow their beards to fight the one who is out to kill them, although they are raising his banner, speaking his language, and performing his "dirty missions" everywhere, including in their own countries!

It is war then.

The response of Arabs and Muslims may be late but ultimately it is destined to be of a nature other than that which pleases the Americans and opens the Arab and Muslim world to an Israeli invasion backed by American weapons, funds, and political support under the pretext of working for peace!

It will go down in history that the "peace plan" fell at the doorstep of the White House, covered with its own blood, and shot by an American bullet, even if the instigator is an Israeli.

Perhaps it is the beginning of the end for the American epoch!

Fadlallah Urges Sanctions, Boycotting U.S. Goods

NC0102094795 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 28 Jan 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision to freeze the financial assets of the Islamic movements groups and individuals is propaganda and a political ploy, down payment for the coming U.S. elections. He said that the United States has declared war on Islam and he called for withdrawing assets from U.S. banks and boycotting U.S. goods. He noted that there is U.S.-Israeli coordination in certain actions in south Lebanon.

In his Friday [27 January] sermon that he delivered from the pulpit of the Imam al-Rida Mosque in Bi'r al-'Abd [in Beirut] yesterday, Fadlallah said that the United States has declared war on Islam in favor of the Jews. The United States, he said, is fighting every Islamic site, individual, and government in the world. He said: We must view President Clinton as the enemy prime minister when we hear him say that he wants to freeze the financial assets of Islamic movements, liberation figures, and Islamic organizations. He added: We say we respond to this decision with a smile of derision. Most Islamic organizations and individuals have no assets in U.S. banks, which do not inspire trust. It is propaganda and a political matter. I was included among the names although I have never in my life deposited one single cent in U.S. banks not even for funding the orphans and poor.

Fadlallah said: What the United States wants is to make Israel safe and sound in the region. We do not respect America or such a President or Administration, because as Muslims and Arabs we feel that the United States has declared war on Islam for Israel's sake. I say this forthrightly and do not mince my words: America is the arch satan and our enemy. It wants to give Israel a free hand to dominate us. I warn that there might be a green or amber light for U.S.-Israeli coordination in launching a certain action in south Lebanon. The United States is protecting Israel's aggression and I say frankly that we must take two steps:

First, I tell all Arab and Islamic countries, organizations, societies, and individuals to withdraw their assets from any U.S. bank or establishment, because it is a country that cannot be trusted with the funds of the people. That country is untrustworthy with people's money because it betrays their trust. I call for boycotting U.S. banks and establishments. The United States is not alone: We can invest our funds in Europe and other countries.

I tell the Arab and Islamic worlds: You must boycott all U.S. goods that can be dispensed with. We have no grudge against the American people. There are American goods and products that we can dispense with and replace, because they are luxuries.

From a position of responsibility I tell the believers—in this I agree with his eminence 'Ali Khamene'i—that anything that might strengthen the economy of global arrogance, even by one or two percent, is against Islamic shari'ah [haram]. Every dollar with which you buy U.S. goods will be used by Israel to buy bombs to kill our children in the south and western al-Biqa'. I am not one of those who only shout "Death to America," but I consider it my responsibility and feel duty bound before God confer this trust upon you as faithful believers. We are not merely emotional people, but if we say something, we act on it. They ridicule us and want to subjugate us. We must stand up to them and confront them. We must be free men protecting our causes and future and not be slaves of others. God created us free. Be with the truthful, mujahdin, and freemen so that we can defend our rights and causes.

Column Mocks U.S. Request That Arabs Condemn Netanya

NC3101182995 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 25 Jan 95 p 1

["On AL-DIYAR's Road" column, signed "AL-DIYAR"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States asks Lebanon and Arab governments to condemn the resistance operation in the heart of occupied Palestine, because U.S. rudeness stipulates that the Jews should occupy our land and scatter the Palestinian people, and that the commander of the internal border strip, Yasir 'Arafat, should bless such action. And then, if a fighter carries out an operation against the occupation, his action should be condemned because the Israeli aggression should be rewarded, not punished.

The United States is interested in the Declaration of Principles between the Arabs and Israel. This Declaration of Principles is that the Arabs should be without principles, because the Jews have no principles and whoever signs anything with a Jew has no principles. This is nothing new; in fact, it predates the crucifixion of Christ, has been the case since the crucifixion, and will continue to be so until the Day of Judgment.

The United States has sold its principles and is governed by a Jewish cattle trader. The land of human rights, which the U.S. claims it is, is a land for attacking human rights.

O America, America, when will you feel our pains? When will you learn of our sadness? When will you know that our dead and wounded are the making of American weapons in the hands of the Jews?

Official Position Stated on Nuclear Treaty Renewal

NC0102070995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0520 GMT 1 Feb 95

[Report by Dr. Sayyid 'Ali from Beirut, from the "Correspondent's Dispatches" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its position on the renewal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], which will expire in April, Lebanon will adopt the views that will be finally determined by the technical committee formed by the Arab League, which will meet on 2 and 3 February. The committee will present its views to the Arab League's 103d session in March.

Lebanon's delegation to this meeting carries the following ideas:

1. The treaty should be renewed for a specific time.

2. Israel must be forced to sign the NPT.

3. There should be a call for establishing a nuclear demilitarized zone in the Middle East.

4. The Arab countries must not sign the NPT if Israel fails to sign it, ratify its adherence, and allow inspection of its nuclear weapons.

So far, Israeli officials have shown absolutely no sign of willingness to join the treaty. Diplomatic sources say Israel's position is not in harmony with the principle that mutual security requires equal forces. They say peace requires mutual security and guarantees for the parties. If Israel really wants peace, they ask, why is it arming itself and why does it need to be militarily superior?

Western diplomatic sources say that the bilateral talks and the multilateral talks on arms control must go in parallel. While the bilateral talks exchange land for peace, the multilaterals stress the desire of the parties to the conflict in the Middle East to achieve lasting peace.

Shams-al-Din Addresses Anti-Normalization Conference

NC2801131695 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The constituent session of the National Conference for Resisting Normalization opened at the Carlton Hotel today. It was attended by several public figures, notably former prime ministers Salim al-Huss and Rashid al-Sulh, Higher Islamic Shiite Council Chairman Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, Deputies Bisharah Mirhij, Zahir al-Khatib, and Najah Wakim, Phalangist Party Secretary General Karim Paqraduni, and Phalangist Party Political Bureau member Simon al-Khazin.

In a speech to the conference, Shaykh Shams-al-Din said: We will declare any law that permits normalization null and void.

[Begin Shams-al-Din recording] I propose that we close ranks to confront the Middle Eastern scheme. Normalization means altering the identity of the region and the sense of belonging to it. There is a design to destroy the nation's ability to remain steadfast and resist by advocating normalization. This normalization is being presented as the fruit that will be borne by the so-called peace. On the contrary, we view it as a prize for Israel for its victory in a war which it considers over but which we regard as unfinished. Our war with Zionism continues. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Conference Issues Final Statement

NC3101163295 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In its final statement today, the Constituent National Conference for Resisting Normalization affirmed Lebanon's strong heritage in defending its national identity, Arab character, independence, and sovereignty. It expressed the belief that normalization is another form of occupation and a byword for the Zionist expansionist and hegemony policy.

The final statement was read out by attorney Karim Paqraduni, member of the constituent committee and secretary general of the Phalangist Party.

[Begin Paqraduni recording] The conference believes that normalization is another form of occupation and a byword for the Zionist policy of expansionism and hegemony. Normalization will more Israel from a phase of military occupation to a phase of economic hegemony and will allow Israel to perpetuate its current economic and military superiority. Normalization will marginalize Lebanon economically, financially, and culturally and will subordinate it to Israel's economy. Consequently, Lebanon will become a subservient, backward, and poor society.

The conference warns against lifting the Arab boycott and opening Arab capitals and markets to Israel. It also warns against falling into the trap of a Middle East Market. The conference denounces the normalization process carried out by some Arab countries without regard for Arab solidarity and charters.

Resisting normalization requires an advanced awareness of the need to preserve Islamic-Christian coexistence, national accord, and internal unity. It requires a comprehensive development of human and natural resources and national products. It requires the comprehensive development of inter-Arab relations. [end recording]

The conference's resolutions and recommendations were read by 'Ali al-Husayn, member of the drafting committee and member of the Believers Resistance command.

[Begin al-Husayn recording] The conferees affirm their adherence to national unity and civil peace as being part of the aspects of the war against the Zionist enemy. They call for social justice, equal opportunities, and for loyalty to the homeland to be above loyalty to a sect or area. Israel is a usurping, racist, and strange entity planted in the region by imperialism to preserve its interests. Israel cannot be assimilated into the region. Boycotting it and rejecting normalization with it are a national and pan-Arab demand dictated by our pan-Arab ties, social affiliations, and national identity. We reject the resettlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon as a way of abolishing the Palestinian identity, circumventing the right of return, and dissolving the Palestinian character. We adhere to public freedoms which are the homeland's foundations and are the Lebanese people's characteristics because Lebanon has a distinguished role in this sphere.

We commend al-Asad's Syria for sponsoring the resistance and rejecting pressure and blackmail exercised by some Western states, above all the United States, and by some Arab countries. [end recording]

Israeli Mock Raids Over Southern Areas Reported

NC0102125695 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli warplanes conducted mock raids and reconnaissance flights over armed positions in al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah this morning. Israeli artillery intermittently shelled al-Jabal al-Rafi' and Nab' al-Tasah river banks.

IDF Soldier, 3 'Terrorists' Killed Near Yatar

TA3101185395 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Jan 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was killed during heavy fire exchanges in south Lebanon earlier today. The family of the soldier was notified.

The incident occurred after an IDF force spotted a terrorist squad in the central sector, near the village of Yatar north of the security zone. The force opened fire at close range. A battle ensued in which the soldier was killed.

According to reports from Lebanon three terrorists were killed in the operation and several others were wounded. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Gives U.S. Envoy Message for Clinton

JN0102063695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received U.S. Ambassador Christopher Ross in Damascus yesterday, Tuesday [31 January], and handed him a letter from President Hafiz al-Asad to President Clinton in reply to the letter the U.S. President had sent earlier on the peace process. Al-Shar' informed the U.S. ambassador that Ambassador Walid al-Mu'allim will return to Washington this week to discuss with the U.S. peace team the developments in the peace process.

Press Blames Israel for Peace Talks 'Stalemate'

JN3001080195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Jan 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary today, the newspaper TISHRIN addresses statements by Israeli officials accusing Syria of precluding a resumption of the talks, and of collusion in the peace process. The paper believes that the Israeli plan to hold Syria responsible for the stalemate and the suspension of the peace talks is a premeditated blueprint agreed upon by all Israeli parties, be they members of the coalition government or opposition groups. This claim is corroborated by the fact that there are no differences whatsoever between the Likud and the Labor Party with regard to the perpetuation of the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, particularly the Golan and southern Lebanon.

TISHRIN adds: Hence, the statements by Rabin, in which he expressed extreme pessimism over the prospects for the peace process on the Syrian track of negotiations. They reflect, first and foremost, an Israeli evasion of the requirements of just and comprehensive peace. They also demonstrate Israel's adherence to plans and schemes that are opposed to withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. These statements clearly exhibit Israel's refusal to comply with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, which provide for Israeli troop withdrawal to the pre-June 4, 1967 borders.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Had it sought to create optimism over the prospects for the peace process, Israel would have announced at the Madrid conference—when the peace process was formally launched—a favorable response to the idea of exchanging territory for peace. However, instead of doing so, Israel has chosen to create obstacles and difficulties, plant mines, pursue a policy of maneuvering, deception, and provocation, and circumvent the requirements and components of real peace, which is bound to be just and comprehensive. But Israel was not content with this. Indeed, it has linked the attainment of peace with other steps, such as normalization, the establishment of ties, vital security pretexts, and other matters that jeopardize pan-Arab security.

TISHRIN concludes its commentary by saying: The developments in the peace process have confirmed that Israel is in no way interested in achieving the desired just and comprehensive peace, which is bound to be equitable and balanced. It seeks to throw dust in the eyes, and cover up its responsibility for torpedoing the peace process by pointing accusing fingers at Syria—something that defies the most basic rules of logic and common sense. This is because Syria's endorsement of the peace process has opened the doors wide for a real solution that could usher in an era of stability, reconciliation, and quiet once the Arabs regain their territories and rights in full.

For its part, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says that Yitzhaq Rabin, whose election platform called for freezing settlement activities, has lent greater support to settlement activities than the Likud did.

The paper adds that Rabin, who has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, is opposed to peace if it provides for Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories its troops are occupying. Given this state of affairs from the man standing at the helm of executive power in Israel, how can one trust the promises and pledges made by an authority that has fallen into the habit of lying, demonstrating hypocrisy, and backing down on agreements, even when the witnesses are Israel's close allies?

AL-BA'TH goes on to say that Syria, which believed that the Madrid conference created a window of opportunity, and viewed the land-for-peace exchange as a means to an end, will not agree to meet the fate of those who have shown regrets after Rabin disappointed them.

Iraqi Committee Meets, Urges 'National Front'

JN3001153395 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 22 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, SANA—The Coordination Committee of Nationalist Democratic Action in Iraq has appealed to all nationalist parties in Iraq to undertake serious action to form a broad national front through the alliance of the main streams in the Iraqi community. The objective of this committee would be to save the Iraqi people from the prevailing conditions.

The committee, which held a series of meetings in Damascus between 14-16 January, issued a statement saying that it had launched a series of serious, constructive initiatives to quickly form a national front. The purpose of this is to set up a democratic, pluralistic regime that respects human rights and safeguards Iraqi unity. The committee urged the masses of our Arab nation—represented in their active forces—to coordinate their efforts to confront normalization with Israel and to reject the so-called Middle East order that seeks to replace the Arab regional order.

Foreign Minister al-Shar' Returns From Bahrain

JN3101093395 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0845 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 31 Jan (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus last night from Bahrain after he conveyed a message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain.

He was seen off at Manama International Airport by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah and the Bahraini Foreign Ministry senior staff.

Afghanistan

Party Leaders Hold Talks, Support UN Peace Plan

LD3101185695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Ahmad Shah Masud, member of the High Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and head of the organization affairs of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami, met today Pir Sayd Ahmad Gaylani, leader of the Mahaz-e Meli of Afghanistan [National Front Party of Afghanistan] and his accompanying delegation consisting of esteemed Sayd Salman Gaylani; esteemed Mohammad Qasim; esteemed Omar Babrakzai; esteemed Hamed Karzai; esteemed Abdol Wakil Akbarzai; and esteemed General Ayub Asil.

At this meeting esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud was accompanied by esteemed Dr. Abdorrahman, acting minister of civil aviation and tourism; Lieutenant General Mohammad Na'em, head of the detection department of the Defense Ministry; and esteemed Abdollah, head of the secretariat of the Defense Ministry.

Both sides held talks on the restoration of peace and have expressed support for the UN plan.

Hekmatyar Suffers Defeat in Wardag Province

LD3101165095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Golboddin Hekmatyar's militia have suffered fresh defeats in the province of Maidan and Wardag. A military correspondent of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports:

As a result of the clearing-up operation of the Islamic Army forces and mojahedin in the province of Maidan and Wardag, 80 militia were killed and 250 were taken prisoner. In the course of this successful operation, 12 tanks, one BM 41 [rocket launcher] set, 95 pieces of light and heavy weapons, three pieces of [word indistinct] artillery, two truck loads of of ammunition have been captured as booty by the mojahedin. During this operation the village of Qala-e Norak and Charborja in Wardag Province have been purged. A brigade of the Golboddin militia was totally broken up, and his demoralized men leave their positions without resistance and flee. The advance of the mojahedin continues. The report says that Golboddin Hekmatyar has personally gone to Maidan Province and personally command the battle to raise his men's morale.

India

Iranian 'Nerve Gas' Assistance 'Clarified'

BK3101151595 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1431 GMT 31 Jan 95

["Spokesman's Statement"—ISI Headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In response to a question relating to a report in THE INDIAN EXPRESS today on the setting up of nerve gas plants in Iran by Indian companies, the official spokesman stated that this was not the first time these allegations have been made and that THE WASHINGTON TIMES had carried similar reports in early December 1994.

Clarifying the position, the spokesman said the projects for the construction of pesticide factories in Iran were put out to international tender and Indian companies won these tenders in open global competition. The spokesman added that no fears were expressed then by the competitors or the countries they came from about the nature and possible use of these plants.

The spokesman further clarified that India has no chemical weapons, and Indian companies, therefore, have neither the technology, equipment or expertise to set up plants to manufacture these weapons. He recalled that India was an original signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention [CWC] and adopted a stringent export licensing mechanism to control and monitor exports of dual use materials and equipment even before the convention was finalised. Where the proliferation has taken place, the record shows that this has been with the assistance of companies from industrialised countries, including those which run ad-hoc export control regimes ostensibly designed to prevent this from happening.

The spokesman noted that the CWC does not prevent exports or the transfer of technology for peaceful uses and contended that reports like these only reinforce fears in developing countries that the bogey of proliferation is being used against their industries, which now compete effectively with those of the industrialised world.

Turkey's President Demirel Arrives for Talks

Commentary Views Ties

BK3101052495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 31 Jan 95

[Commentary by Rai Singh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The visit of the Turkish president, Mr. Suleyman Demirel, to India signifies a new trend in Indo-Turkish relations. President Demirel's visit to India has rightly been described as an effort by both the countries to rediscover each other. India and Turkey may have different perceptions in foreign and domestic policies, but their firm belief in democracy and secularism unites the two nations. Turkey did experience military rule, but it preferred to revert to democracy. They are under tremendous pressure from the Muslim fundamentalists to declare Turkey a theocratic state but have successfully resisted these pressures.

After the end of the Cold War, a definite change has ushered in in the international relationship and balance of power. The visit of the Turkish president to India is a recognition of this change. It realizes that in the changed world order, it has more to do with India and Asia as a whole rather than the West. There are greater possibilities of meaningful Indo-Turkish cooperation. Issues like terrorism, trafficking in narcotics have created enormous problems for both the countries. Trade and commerce between the two countries has been stagnant and low due to inadequate transport and other problems. Ways and means can be found to tide over the obstacles to increase the volume of trade and commerce.

Turkey is more anxious to expand trade and commerce with India and other Asian countries, because the Western market is sinking for it and the Asian market is likely to expand. India and Turkey will sign an agreement on avoidance of double taxation. Indian railway construction companies have already entered Turkey's market.

Turkey's internal problems, like the Kurdish and other ethnic issues, being an important and founding member of the Islamic Conference Organization, ICO, and a member of its Contact Group on Kashmir, it is believed that Turkey will view the outstanding issues between the nations of South Asia in a proper perspective. India's resolve to have more meaningful relations with all the ICO countries is no secret. Observers are confident that the visit of President Demirel will pave the way for closer cooperation and friendship between the two countries who are so similar and yet so far off.

Demirel Meets With Rao

BK3101140495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Turkey have stressed the need for resolving regional problems through peaceful dialogue. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the visiting Turkish president, Mr. Suleyman Demirel, held talks in New Delhi today. Exchanging views on regional and international issues, Mr. Rao informed the Turkish president about India's offer to Pakistan for a dialogue to resolve all issues under the Simla agreement. Mr. Demirel explained his country's position on the Cyprus issue. On bilateral relations, the prime minister said the joint commission should meet early and formulate concrete proposals for increasing ties in the economic and commercial fields. The Turkish president said there is great scope for tie-up in communication, satellite, and other areas.

Earlier, the Turkish president had talks with the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House]. Both the leaders felt that India and Turkey should work together in the Central Asian region. The visiting Turkish parliamentarians also exchanged views with some members of Parliament. In the morning, Mr. Suleyman Demirel was accorded a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Two Agreements Signed

BK0102013595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Turkey have agreed to expand bilateral cooperation in a big way and explore possibilities for joint ventures in the Central Asian countries. Two agreements were also signed to avoid double taxation and to promote tourism. The two countries will also increase the present level of trade by several times and boost bilateral flow of technology, investment, trade, and services.

The bilateral relations came up for extensive review when the visiting Turkish president, Mr. Suleyman Demirel, had discussions with the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao. Mr. Demirel and Mr. Rao spoke of cooperation in several areas, including communications and satellite technology. They also discussed regional and international developments and agreed that all problems should be resolved through peaceful dialogue.

Mr. Rao reiterated India's commitment to have good neighborly relations with Pakistan and resolve all issues with Islamabad under the Simla Agreement. Mr. Demirel explained his country's position on the Cyprus issue. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma told President Demirel that the two countries have a shared commitment to democracy and secularism and open up their economy.

The two agreements were signed by the Turkish minister of state, Mr. Bekir Sami Dace, on behalf of his country and the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia. The double taxation agreement provides for lower rates of taxation on investment income, including dividends on royalties besides other facilities. The tourism agreement will encourage travel industry to carry out joint publicity campaigns in international and domestic markets.

The visiting Turkish parliamentarians who are accompanying President Demirel also exchanged views with members of Indian Parliament. The meeting was convened by the deputy chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Najma Heptullah.

Sharma, Demirel at State Banquet

BK0102051595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Turkey have voiced their serious concern over the threats posed by terrorism and fundamentalism to democratic societies. They have also asserted that it is time to fight against these trends. Addressing a banquet given in honor of President Suleyman Demirel of Turkey, the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, said terrorism against defenseless civilians prevails in many parts of the world. India continues to face transborder terrorism aimed at undermining the nation's unity and integrity. He said New Delhi has succeeded in large measures in its attempt to establish friendly relations with its neighbors, but not all of them responded in a spirit of friendship. Nevertheless, the president said, India will continue its efforts to promote stability and regional cooperation.

Turning to economic liberalization, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, said it offers a great potential to strengthen bilateral cooperation between India and Turkey. The friendly relations should be reinforced by increasing bilateral trade and setting up joint ventures.

In his reply, President Demirel said both India and Turkey believe in the principles of democracy and secularism. Both the countries should concentrate on establishing partnership in the economic field and diversify cooperation in cultural and other areas.

Accord Reached With Bangladesh on Border Crime

BK3101133595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Bangladesh have agreed to reconstruct damaged border pillars and contain border crimes. This was decided at a magistrate-level meeting of West Tripura and Brahmanbaria of Bangladesh in Agartala yesterday. The meeting discussed various border problems, disputed areas, and border crimes. The Indian officials apprised the Bangladesh Government about people crossing into India and escaping with cattle besides committing dacoities [robberies].

Technical Cooperation Pact Signed With Slovenia

BK0102055095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Slovenia have signed an agreement on cooperation in science and technology. The agreement envisages joint research and development ventures, exchange of scientists, information documents and equipment. It was signed by the minister of state for science and technology, Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, and his Slovenian counterpart, Dr. Rado Bohinc, in New Delhi.

Paper: Nation Poised To Enter World Defense Market

BK3101105795 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 30 Jan 95 p 6

[Article by Ranjit Kumar: "The Indian Initiative in the Defense Equipment Market"]

[FBIS Translated Text] India is going to take a big initiative in entering the world market for the latest generation defense equipment. At the Abu Dhabi World Defense Exhibition, likely to take place in the middle of March this year, India will not only display its main war-tank 'Arjun' but will also show the world the function of its latest 'Indra-1' radar, capable of trapping low-flying enemy warplanes, and the capabilities of its pilotless plane 'Lakshya.' Along with displaying its latest acquisition in the field of defense equipment, India will for the first time extend an open invitation to the top world companies to come to India and fulfill our national defense needs. In the last week of February, India, again for the first time, is organizing an international defense technique exhibition, in which top weapons-producing companies of the world are likely to participate.

This exhibition of the latest indigenously developed defense equipment by India, a country that has so far avoided such displays, will be an ambitious event in which India will show its latest acquisitions in the defense field to vie with the top defense techniques prevalent in the world. Besides displaying its latest electronic gadgets, radar, mission-computer etc., India will also show its latest indigenously developed strategic missiles. Among these missiles will be the surface-to-air missile, Trishul, and the aerial target and tank-destroying missiles, Akash and Nag respectively. The latest radars: 'Indra-1' and 'Indra-2' will also be displayed. They are India's latest and best acquisition in the high technology sector. Thus, for the first time, India is displaying its latest, indigenously developed, defense equipment to impress upon other countries that this defense equipment, developed with superior technological knowledge, can be purchased from India.

In these two big defense exhibitions, likely to take place in Abu Dhabi and New Delhi, the laboratories and the workshops of India's Defense Research & Development Organization (DRDO) will make a most significant contribution. Worthy of mention in this context is the fact that only recently India emerged with flying colors in indigenously producing and developing the complex electronic gadgets used in the latest weapons. These pieces of equipment are capable of significantly enhancing the striking capacity of the weapons.

The organizers of the New Delhi exhibition claim that in the new world order India is truly becoming the ideal confluence point between the East and the West and the North and the South. Hence, participation in the exhibition is going to prove especially advantageous to foreign companies. The main purpose of this exhibition, called "India International Civil & Defense Equipment & Systems' Exhibition," is to encourage the foreign technology transfer and establishment of various joint ventures. At the exhibition, the top companies of Israel, the United States, Russia, Europe, etc. are likely to participate. Besides entering the huge market for defense equipment and weapons in the Indian Army's arsenal, these companies can also explore the possibilities of entering into a new joint venture with Indian companies and other foreign organizations.

In the process of development of defense techniques, many kinds of equipment and techniques thus developed have been found quite useful in the civil sector, such as space aeronautics. These techniques and equipment, such as air traffic control (ATC), microsatellites and space science, oceanography and related techniques, ground-level war equipment, tank-destroying weapons, air security weapons, communication, command, control and intelligence (C3 I); Electronic Counter Control Method (ECCM), radar techniques and equipment are those that would form the basis of future air-travel and electronic warfare.

In the new economic atmosphere, India allowed the export of defense equipment and apparatus about three years ago, and the target was fixed to touch export worth 500 crore rupees by the end of 1994. However, during the preceding year, export of military equipment worth only 200 crore rupees could be achieved. Defense sources believe that because of a lack of publicity the Indian defense products could not establish a name for themselves in the defense market. Thus, to penetrate the world defense market, India must extend invitations to the renowned world weapons manufacturers and explore the possibilities of establishing joint ventures and high technology transfer. India must also participate in the defense exhibitions organized around the world and make the potential buyers of weapons take notice of its presence. Although India has already participated in defense exhibitions organized in Singapore, Brazil, Canada, etc. its contributions were negligible. Its presence was invariably confined to small exhibits. Now at the Abu Dhabi defense exhibition, the Indian presence will be seen in larger exhibits in which the Arjun tank, radars, etc will be displayed. Defense sources claim that the basic purpose of the scheduled New Delhi defense exhibition is to open doors for the foreign companies to permit them to collaborate with Indian companies in defense production, as is being done in the civil sector, so that they can also derive the benefit of India's technological base and the cheap labor.

India has 38 ordnance factories and eight defense production centers in the public sector, among which Bharat Electronics, Hindustan Aeronautics, etc. top the list. These have made significant contributions in helping Indian defense production reach the world market, and this time they have decided to attend the defense exhibitions on a much wider scale. Since more than 30 countries use weapons and equipment manufactured by the former Soviet Union, with its collapse the supply of the electronic and avionic parts used in these Soviet weapons and equipment has either stopped totally or become very erratic. India stands a good chance to be able to repair and renew those pieces of defense equipment with the cooperation of the Russian concerns and to get a long-term contract from the user countries. India will be displaying this ability through the medium of the defense exhibition likely to be held in New Delhi in February of this year.

Need for Investment in West Bengal Outlined

BK3101040695 Calcutta ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 19 Jan 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Is Calcutta Far?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are two questions, not one. First: Why was Calcutta dropped from the itinerary of U.S. Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown? Second: Why did Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel go to Calcutta? These two questions are not unrelated. The answer to these two questions is that the U.S. Government and businessmen are eager to invest in West Bengal, but they are afraid. Unless this fear is removed, their eagerness will not be converted into action. Robin Raphel's visit to Calcutta demonstrates their eagerness. It may seem surprising to link a visit to Calcutta by a senior U.S. State Department official with investment, but in fact this is quite normal. In the new world order, trade policy and foreign policy are linked. This has been reflected in different ways. It was hinted at during Raphel's visit. In fact, she said in very clear terms that she was a member of the commerce secretary's delegation. This means that she came with the goal of expanding trade and economic ties between the United States and India. She was on a factfinding mission to West Bengal. She wanted to acquaint herself with the state's investment climate and the prospects for its development. When she was asked why the main delegation did not visit Calcutta along with New Delhi and Bombay, she replied that the prospects for investment are very bright in Western India, and so naturally the attention of U.S. investors is focused in that direction. The agreements on investment projects that were signed in New Delhi did include some projects in West Bengal, but these projects were decided earlier.

There is a phrase in English—"also ran." It means those who participated in a competition but failed. In this country the competition among the various states to attract investment has not ended, but has just started. Hence we cannot refer to the past. It should be said that West Bengal is also running. It only recently joined the race a couple of months ago. Several other states have already made great progress and the investment ratio in these states is much higher. The rule is that if someone joins a race late, he should run very fast in order to reduce the gap. Now the question arises: Is West Bengal trying to run very fast? It has become more active and eager than Maharashtra, Gujarat, or Haryana in creating a favorable investment atmosphere. It is unfortunate that the additional efforts by the people of the state are not yet visible. Those who are surprised by the initiatives of Jyoti Basu [West Bengal chief minister] and Somnath Chattopadhyay [chairman of West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation] are comparing these initiatives to their lack of interest and apathy in the past. This comparison is wrong and irrelevant. A comparison should be made with the efforts being made in competing states. If this is done, it will be seen that West Bengal still lags behind.

Robin Raphel came to this state to convey this truth. At the very outset she heard a significant statement from the chief minister: The Left Front government welcomes U.S. investment in the state but only under certain "preconditions." Preconditions? This word is enough to create deep suspicion in the mind of potential investors from the United States or any other country. Ronald Brown and the members of his delegation, which included entrepreneurs and businessmen, emphatically said that the economic reforms in India are incomplete. They further said that the investment figures will not increase unless bureaucratic impediments and procedural complications are removed. This means they have a lot of doubt regarding India's overall industrial and trade environment. Even a small boy would understand that by raising the issue of "conditions" the West Bengal Government has failed to please foreign investors.

Why is the state government unable to create a liberal investment climate in the state without fear? It has become clear to the state government, which has suffered a lot, that it is essential to create such an environment. In view of this reality they should set aside their policy and ideology. It is notable that even the state's Congress leaders, answering a question raised by Robin Raphel, tried to assure her that the Left Front government is very enthusiastic about industrial development in the state. Although they speak differently in public meetings for the sake of party politics, in reality they did not want to displease the U.S. delegation. There may be a controversy as to whether this is political liberalism. The opposition party admits that in the interest of the state there is no alternative to a liberal economic policy and outlook. Hence, if the Left Front government adopts this policy there will be no political opposition. Despite this, they are unable to say anything new out loud. Perhaps their old beliefs are preventing them from doing so. Their outlook is overwhelmed by old hesitations and doubts regarding foreign investment. This is a matter of grave concern for West Bengal. The Singapore prime minister, the British foreign secretary, and the U.S. commerce secretary have clearly said that India should expedite its economic reforms because the outside world is not sitting idle. This statement is very true in the case of West Bengal.

Editorial Views Issue of Software Exports

BK3101024295 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 26 Jan 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Software Export"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The US Commerce Secretary, Mr Ronald Brown, was, of course, not expected to reel off an assurance when confronted with the domestic industry's concerns on the stringent visa regulations applicable to Indian professionals intending to go to the US. While the Secretary promised to convey the industry's concerns to the relevant quarters, the industry does not foresee any substantial relief because of his intervention. The issue has resurfaced again at the recent Software India 1995, an exhibition of the latest software technologies in India, being held in New Delhi. Why should the industry be so exercised over the relatively minor matter of issue of visas? Despite all the uncertainties, the software industry expects exports to treble in value within four years. As against export volumes of $330 million in 1993-94, the National Association of Software Services and Computer Manufacturers (Nasscom) predicts export to touch the $1 billion mark by the end of 1998. It is certainly possible. During the first-half of the current year, software exports have grown by a strong 72 per cent compared to the same period of last year. It is the second fastest growing sector, after financial services. Given the right attitude there is no reason why the industry cannot do better and surpass the target much earlier than in 1998. Rather than quibble over the issue of visas for Indian professionals, the industry would be better off by concentrating on the comparative advantages which India has in this field. It is a sad reflection on the industry's maturity that the US ambassador Frank Wisner had to point out that the industry should, in fact, be taking a hard look at itself, in terms of measuring its achievements with its potential and in terms of creating investment opportunities.

By far, the most significant advantage with the domestic industry is that adequately qualified labour is cheap A software professional in India gets paid much less than his peer abroad. While the inclination towards exporting such cheap labour abroad may be strong, there is the simple fact that the services rendered by a professional working in India adds to the local GNP. The restrictions on body shopping, placed by the USA, therefore, are not wholly detrimental to Indian interests. As a matter of fact, such restrictions would have the effect of increasing foreign investment in the domestic industry, thereby not only creating jobs for software professionals but also in terms of backward and forward linkages.

But it is also fact that Indian firms, on their own, are not able to lay their hands on the juiciest bits of contracts being given out: a subtle caste system operates to their detriment. For the simple fact that Indian labour is cheap, domestic firms are often dumped with the donkey's work, which apparently would be too costly to be done abroad. The industry must, therefore, look at ways to change the product profile. This could be made easier if the industry explores joint ventures with global software giants. This would set at rest the initial hesitation in awarding lucrative software development contracts to Indian firms. The short point in this is that India is uniquely placed to cash in on the exploding global demand for software and related services. It has a vast pool of trained manpower. The required training and educational facilities are also adequate and growing. Indians have traditionally performed well in professional vocations abroad. Witness the profusion of Indian analysts on Wall Street. There is no reason, therefore, why these success stories cannot be replicated in the Indian software milieu.

nation's unity and integrity. He said New Delhi has succeeded in large measures in its attempt to establish friendly relations with its neighbors, but not all of them responded in a spirit of friendship. Nevertheless, the president said, India will continue its efforts to promote stability and regional cooperation.

Turning to economic liberalization, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, said it offers a great potential to strengthen bilateral cooperation between India and Turkey. The friendly relations should be reinforced by increasing bilateral trade and setting up joint ventures.

In his reply, President Demirel said both India and Turkey believe in the principles of democracy and secularism. Both the countries should concentrate on establishing partnership in the economic field and diversify cooperation in cultural and other areas.

Accord Reached With Bangladesh on Border Crime

BK3101133595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Bangladesh have agreed to reconstruct damaged border pillars and contain border crimes. This was decided at a magistrate-level meeting of West Tripura and Brahmanbaria of Bangladesh in Agartala yesterday. The meeting discussed various border problems, disputed areas, and border crimes. The Indian officials apprised the Bangladesh Government about people crossing into India and escaping with cattle besides committing dacoities [robberies].

Technical Cooperation Pact Signed With Slovenia

BK0102055095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Slovenia have signed an agreement on cooperation in science and technology. The agreement envisages joint research and development ventures, exchange of scientists, information documents and equipment. It was signed by the minister of state for science and technology, Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, and his Slovenian counterpart, Dr. Rado Bohinc, in New Delhi.

Paper: Nation Poised To Enter World Defense Market

BK3101105795 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 30 Jan 95 p 6

[Article by Ranjit Kumar: "The Indian Initiative in the Defense Equipment Market"]

[FBIS Translated Text] India is going to take a big initiative in entering the world market for the latest generation defense equipment. At the Abu Dhabi World Defense Exhibition, likely to take place in the middle of March this year, India will not only display its main war-tank 'Arjun' but will also show the world the function of its latest 'Indra-1' radar, capable of trapping low-flying enemy warplanes, and the capabilities of its pilotless plane 'Lakshya.' Along with displaying its latest acquisition in the field of defense equipment, India will for the first time extend an open invitation to the top world companies to come to India and fulfill our national defense needs. In the last week of February, India, again for the first time, is organizing an international defense technique exhibition, in which top weapons-producing companies of the world are likely to participate.

This exhibition of the latest indigenously developed defense equipment by India, a country that has so far avoided such displays, will be an ambitious event in which India will show its latest acquisitions in the defense field to vie with the top defense techniques prevalent in the world. Besides displaying its latest electronic gadgets, radar, mission-computer etc., India will also show its latest indigenously developed strategic missiles. Among these missiles will be the surface-to-air missile, Trishul, and the aerial target and tank-destroying missiles, Akash and Nag respectively. The latest radars: 'Indra-1' and 'Indra-2' will also be displayed. They are India's latest and best acquisition in the high technology sector. Thus, for the first time, India is displaying its latest, indigenously developed, defense equipment to impress upon other countries that this defense equipment, developed with superior technological knowledge, can be purchased from India.

In these two big defense exhibitions, likely to take place in Abu Dhabi and New Delhi, the laboratories and the workshops of India's Defense Research & Development Organization (DRDO) will make a most significant contribution. Worthy of mention in this context is the fact that only recently India emerged with flying colors in indigenously producing and developing the complex electronic gadgets used in the latest weapons. These pieces of equipment are capable of significantly enhancing the striking capacity of the weapons.

The organizers of the New Delhi exhibition claim that in the new world order India is truly becoming the ideal confluence point between the East and the West and the North and the South. Hence, participation in the exhibition is going to prove especially advantageous to foreign companies. The main purpose of this exhibition, called "India International Civil & Defense Equipment & Systems' Exhibition," is to encourage the foreign technology transfer and establishment of various joint ventures. At the exhibition, the top companies of Israel, the United States, Russia, Europe, etc. are likely to participate. Besides entering the huge market for defense equipment and weapons in the Indian Army's arsenal, these companies can also explore the possibilities of entering into a new joint venture with Indian companies and other foreign organizations.

In the process of development of defense techniques, many kinds of equipment and techniques thus developed have been found quite useful in the civil sector, such as space aeronautics. These techniques and equipment, such as air traffic control (ATC), microsatellites and space science, oceanography and related techniques, ground-level war equipment, tank-destroying weapons, air security weapons, communication, command, control and intelligence (C3 I); Electronic Counter Control Method (ECCM), radar techniques and equipment are those that would form the basis of future air-travel and electronic warfare.

In the new economic atmosphere, India allowed the export of defense equipment and apparatus about three years ago, and the target was fixed to touch export worth 500 crore rupees by the end of 1994. However, during the preceding year, export of military equipment worth only 200 crore rupees could be achieved. Defense sources believe that because of a lack of publicity the Indian defense products could not establish a name for themselves in the defense market. Thus, to penetrate the world defense market, India must extend invitations to the renowned world weapons manufacturers and explore the possibilities of establishing joint ventures and high technology transfer. India must also participate in the defense exhibitions organized around the world and make the potential buyers of weapons take notice of its presence. Although India has already participated in defense exhibitions organized in Singapore, Brazil, Canada, etc. its contributions were negligible. Its presence was invariably confined to small exhibits. Now at the Abu Dhabi defense exhibition, the Indian presence will be seen in larger exhibits in which the Arjun tank, radars, etc will be displayed. Defense sources claim that the basic purpose of the scheduled New Delhi defense exhibition is to open doors for the foreign companies to permit them to collaborate with Indian companies in defense production, as is being done in the civil sector, so that they can also derive the benefit of India's technological base and the cheap labor.

India has 38 ordnance factories and eight defense production centers in the public sector, among which Bharat Electronics, Hindustan Aeronautics, etc. top the list. These have made significant contributions in helping Indian defense production reach the world market, and this time they have decided to attend the defense exhibitions on a much wider scale. Since more than 30 countries use weapons and equipment manufactured by the former Soviet Union, with its collapse the supply of the electronic and avionic parts used in these Soviet weapons and equipment has either stopped totally or become very erratic. India stands a good chance to be able to repair and renew those pieces of defense equipment with the cooperation of the Russian concerns and to get a long-term contract from the user countries. India will be displaying this ability through the medium of the defense exhibition likely to be held in New Delhi in February of this year.

Need for Investment in West Bengal Outlined

BK3101040695 Calcutta ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 19 Jan 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Is Calcutta Far?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are two questions, not one. First: Why was Calcutta dropped from the itinerary of U.S. Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown? Second: Why did Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel go to Calcutta? These two questions are not unrelated. The answer to these two questions is that the U.S. Government and businessmen are eager to invest in West Bengal, but they are afraid. Unless this fear is removed, their eagerness will not be converted into action. Robin Raphel's visit to Calcutta demonstrates their eagerness. It may seem surprising to link a visit to Calcutta by a senior U.S. State Department official with investment, but in fact this is quite normal. In the new world order, trade policy and foreign policy are linked. This has been reflected in different ways. It was hinted at during Raphel's visit. In fact, she said in very clear terms that she was a member of the commerce secretary's delegation. This means that she came with the goal of expanding trade and economic ties between the United States and India. She was on a factfinding mission to West Bengal. She wanted to acquaint herself with the state's investment climate and the prospects for its development. When she was asked why the main delegation did not visit Calcutta along with New Delhi and Bombay, she replied that the prospects for investment are very bright in Western India, and so naturally the attention of U.S. investors is focused in that direction. The agreements on investment projects that were signed in New Delhi did include some projects in West Bengal, but these projects were decided earlier.

There is a phrase in English—"also ran." It means those who participated in a competition but failed. In this country the competition among the various states to attract investment has not ended, but has just started. Hence we cannot refer to the past. It should be said that West Bengal is also running. It only recently joined the race a couple of months ago. Several other states have already made great progress and the investment ratio in these states is much higher. The rule is that if someone joins a race late, he should run very fast in order to reduce the gap. Now the question arises: Is West Bengal trying to run very fast? It has become more active and eager than Maharashtra, Gujarat, or Haryana in creating a favorable investment atmosphere. It is unfortunate that the additional efforts by the people of the state are not yet visible. Those who are surprised by the initiatives of Jyoti Basu [West Bengal chief minister] and Somnath Chattopadhyay [chairman of West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation] are comparing these initiatives to their lack of interest and apathy in the past. This comparison is wrong and irrelevant. A comparison should be made with the efforts being made in competing states. If this is done, it will be seen that West Bengal still lags behind.

Robin Raphel came to this state to convey this truth. At the very outset she heard a significant statement from the chief minister: The Left Front government welcomes U.S. investment in the state but only under certain "preconditions." Preconditions? This word is enough to create deep suspicion in the mind of potential investors from the United States or any other country. Ronald Brown and the members of his delegation, which included entrepreneurs and businessmen, emphatically said that the economic reforms in India are incomplete. They further said that the investment figures will not increase unless bureaucratic impediments and procedural complications are removed. This means they have a lot of doubt regarding India's overall industrial and trade environment. Even a small boy would understand that by raising the issue of "conditions" the West Bengal Government has failed to please foreign investors.

Why is the state government unable to create a liberal investment climate in the state without fear? It has become clear to the state government, which has suffered a lot, that it is essential to create such an environment. In view of this reality they should set aside their policy and ideology. It is notable that even the state's Congress leaders, answering a question raised by Robin Raphel, tried to assure her that the Left Front government is very enthusiastic about industrial development in the state. Although they speak differently in public meetings for the sake of party politics, in reality they did not want to displease the U.S. delegation. There may be a controversy as to whether this is political liberalism. The opposition party admits that in the interest of the state there is no alternative to a liberal economic policy and outlook. Hence, if the Left Front government adopts this policy there will be no political opposition. Despite this, they are unable to say anything new out loud. Perhaps their old beliefs are preventing them from doing so. Their outlook is overwhelmed by old hesitations and doubts regarding foreign investment. This is a matter of grave concern for West Bengal. The Singapore prime minister, the British foreign secretary, and the U.S. commerce secretary have clearly said that India should expedite its economic reforms because the outside world is not sitting idle. This statement is very true in the case of West Bengal.

Editorial Views Issue of Software Exports

BK3101024295 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 26 Jan 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Software Export"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The US Commerce Secretary, Mr Ronald Brown, was, of course, not expected to reel off an assurance when confronted with the domestic industry's concerns on the stringent visa regulations applicable to Indian professionals intending to go to the US. While the Secretary promised to convey the industry's concerns to the relevant quarters, the industry does not foresee any substantial relief because of his intervention. The issue has resurfaced again at the recent Software India 1995, an exhibition of the latest software technologies in India, being held in New Delhi. Why should the industry be so exercised over the relatively minor matter of issue of visas? Despite all the uncertainties, the software industry expects exports to treble in value within four years. As against export volumes of $330 million in 1993-94, the National Association of Software Services and Computer Manufacturers (Nasscom) predicts export to touch the $1 billion mark by the end of 1998. It is certainly possible. During the first-half of the current year, software exports have grown by a strong 72 per cent compared to the same period of last year. It is the second fastest growing sector, after financial services. Given the right attitude there is no reason why the industry cannot do better and surpass the target much earlier than in 1998. Rather than quibble over the issue of visas for Indian professionals, the industry would be better off by concentrating on the comparative advantages which India has in this field. It is a sad reflection on the industry's maturity that the US ambassador Frank Wisner had to point out that the industry should, in fact, be taking a hard look at itself, in terms of measuring its achievements with its potential and in terms of creating investment opportunities.

By far, the most significant advantage with the domestic industry is that adequately qualified labour is cheap A software professional in India gets paid much less than his peer abroad. While the inclination towards exporting such cheap labour abroad may be strong, there is the simple fact that the services rendered by a professional working in India adds to the local GNP. The restrictions on body shopping, placed by the USA, therefore, are not wholly detrimental to Indian interests. As a matter of fact, such restrictions would have the effect of increasing foreign investment in the domestic industry, thereby not only creating jobs for software professionals but also in terms of backward and forward linkages.

But it is also fact that Indian firms, on their own, are not able to lay their hands on the juiciest bits of contracts being given out: a subtle caste system operates to their detriment. For the simple fact that Indian labour is cheap, domestic firms are often dumped with the donkey's work, which apparently would be too costly to be done abroad. The industry must, therefore, look at ways to change the product profile. This could be made easier if the industry explores joint ventures with global software giants. This would set at rest the initial hesitation in awarding lucrative software development contracts to Indian firms. The short point in this is that India is uniquely placed to cash in on the exploding global demand for software and related services. It has a vast pool of trained manpower. The required training and educational facilities are also adequate and growing. Indians have traditionally performed well in professional vocations abroad. Witness the profusion of Indian analysts on Wall Street. There is no reason, therefore, why these success stories cannot be replicated in the Indian software milieu.

Article Discusses Consumer Goods Import Issue

BK3101122495 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 31 Jan 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Not the Way To Go"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government is understood to be looking for a way to allow import of consumer goods. The idea in principle is lauable. The ban on their imports has led to high prices of and excessive profits on their domestic production. It has fuelled inflation, limited domestic demand and diverted investment from capital goods to consumer durables. Foreign companies have been attracted by the same distorted incentives into consumer durables. With the boom in demand, a shortage of small cars has developed, and premia have emerged which Maruti is exploiting. Banks have made an easy killing by ordering cars and making loans to buyers at high interest rates. All these evils can be ameliorated by allowing the import of consumer goods.

However, before the government works out a complex formula for doing so, it will do well to study past experience. The Central Bureau of Excise and Customs [CBEC] has for long been tempted by the lure of high customs revenue from consumer durables. So two years ago it liberalized baggage rules to allow their import at high rates of duty. Even while the tariffs were brought down, duties on passenger baggage remained high. However, this avarice proved fruitless; for the import of consumer goods in baggage has been insubstantial. Indian workers in the Middle East like to bring cheap items with them; but those apart, air passengers are rich enough to possess already the goods allowed. The duties have been so high that it has been cheaper to buy equivalent goods at home.

In the scheme being mooted in the finance ministry, it is proposed that imports of consumer durables would be allowed with a floor on the import duty to be paid. The government itself would set the price floor, presumably with the aim of preventing a flood of cut-price goods from low-cost producers such as east Asian countries, and therefore of protecting the small-scale domestic producers of some goods. Given the CBEC's weakness for high rates, the scheme could be a failure like its amendment of baggage rules.

Allowing consumer goods imports under special import licences is an even poorer idea. The commerce ministry loves special import licences because they create work for its Directorate General of Foreign Trade. But that is precisely what is wrong about them: they generate paperwork, hassles and corruption. The rate of utilization of special import licences [SIL] is low, and outside Bombay it is negligible. The nonusers are primarily small exporters. This is for two reasons. One is the above-mentioned hassle factor: only large metropolitan exporters can afford the expensive establishments to deal with the bureaucracy. They other is that the primary business of exporters is to export, not in the import of small quantities of completely unrelated consumer goods. Hence SILs are utilized only where a market for them develops and are an extremely discriminatory device to promote exports.

Hence, any relaxation of consumer goods imports should be immune to the cupidity of the bureaucracies in the finance and the commerce ministries. Ideally, the same principles of liberalization should apply to consumer goods—and indeed, to the entire negative list—as to other goods. If the government is not prepared to go so far, exporters should be given licences in strict proportion to their exports to import any commodity on the negative list at moderate rates of duty.

INTUC President Opposes GATT Social Clause

95AS0190A Hyderabad DECCAN CHRONICLE in English 21 Dec 94 p 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hyderabad, Dec. 20—The president of the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), Mr G. Sanjeeva Reddy, has strongly opposed the social clause in the GATT, which is not in the interest of India and other developing countries.

Mr Sanjeeva Reddy, who returned here on Tuesday [20 December], after attending the executive board meeting of the World Trade Union Congress at Belgium from December 3 to 19, said there was no link between the trade and social problems in the developing countries and therefore the social clause in the GATT should be removed.

Mr Sanjeeva Reddy, who addressed a seminar on the global economic policies organised at Germany, had pleaded for the removal of the social clause in the interest of the working class. The inclusion of social clause in the GATT agreement might be to exploit the developing countries by the developed West.

The INTUC president said that five points in the social clause, consisting of freedom of trade union, freedom of human rights, freedom of association, abolition of bonded labour and abolition of child labour, were strongly opposed by the working class in India and other developing countries.

The three-day conference of the Labour Ministers of developing countries, which would be held in Delhi on January 19 to 21, would discuss the social clause among other things. The trade unions in the developing countries, including the INTUC, would participate in the conference.

Besides the developing countries, the world trade unions have also been divided on the inclusion of the clause in the GATT.

He said the India Labour Conference, which is the highest policy-making body in the country, would meet for three days from January 3 in which employees and employers' organisations would discuss new labour legislation, pension schemes, generation of employment potential and the social clause in the GATT. Mr Reddy would lead the delegation to the India Labour Conference, which would be chaired by the Union Minister of Labour, Mr P.A. Sangma.

Task Force Arrests 20 'Top' Kashmir Militants

BK0102051395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the Special Task Force of security forces have arrested 20 hardcore militants from a hideout in Batmaloo locality in Srinagar. The Special Task Force of the state and the BSF [Border Security Force] raided the area after getting an information that some top militants of various outfits were holding a meeting there. Those arrested included five self-styled district commanders. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered. The director general of state police, Mr. M.M. Sabharwal, claimed that it was the biggest success of Jammu and Kashmir Police against militancy during the recent years.

The Home Ministry has termed certain reports of minorities being specifically targeted under TADA [Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act] as unfounded. The home secretary, Mr. K. Padmanabhaiah, clarified that the number of minorities arrested under the act is only about five percent of such detentions. Talking to newspersons in New Delhi, he ruled out that the act will be scrapped. The secretary said some of its provisions could be further refined to decrease its harshness. He said the democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir will continue regardless of Pakistan inspired attempts to cause hindrances.

Editorial Claims Security 'Slipped' in Jammu

BK3101023995 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 27 Jan 95 p 8

[Editorial: "A Serious Lapse"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Governor, Gen. K. V. Krishna Rao's narrow escape in the triple-bomb blast at the Republic Day parade in Jammu is a reminder to the Government that all is not well in the Valley and beyond. In a disconcerting reminder of the holes in the terrorism-afflicted State's security and intelligence machinery, two of the three remote-controlled bombs exploded within a few metres of the dais from where Gen. Krishna Rao was addressing a gathering at Maulana Azad Stadium. Clearly, the bomb attack, which seriously injured the Governor's adviser, Mr B. K. Goswami, was the price the State Government paid for complacence induced by the scaling down of subversive activities in the Valley, mainly on account of the heavy snowfall. There was, however, no cause for stepping down vigilance because de-escalation of terrorist violence does not necessarily translate into a reduction in terrorist threat. A national celebration such as Republic Day is a prime target for subversive elements looking for publicity mileage. For the Jammu and Kashmir administration—headed by Gen. Krishna Rao himself—there was no alternative to heightened security, yet it slipped. And the lapse could not have taken place at a more inappropriate time. While it has pushed the Jammu and Kashmir administration into the glare of adverse publicity, it should wake up the authorities in the State and at the Centre [federal government] that the militants' threat is not confined to the Valley and that they can have the audacity to strike even in Jammu.

By its neglect of security concerns, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has simply ensured the victory of "parochial loyalties", which President Shankar Dayal Sharma had so eloquently denounced in his Republic Day-eve address to the nation. While the Government has reasons to feel relieved that the terrorists could not fell a capable Governor, it must set in motion a high-level inquiry into the attack and take exemplary action against those responsible for the security lapse. It must also take a closer look at the new technology being acquired by terrorists and constantly up-grade its counterinsurgency operations. The bomb attack's message is that there is no room for complacence in the State because the long arm of terrorism has extended beyond the Valley into Jammu.

Iran

Ahmad Khomeyni Marks 10 Days of Dawn, Ramadan

LD0102121295 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Celebrations marking two glorious occasions, the Ten Days of Dawn of the Islamic revolution and the holy month of Ramadan, began all over the country this morning. Bells of happiness tolled all over Islamic Iran as our God-seeking people marked the 17th anniversary of Imam Khomeyni's return to the homeland and the beginning of the Ten Days of Dawn.

On the same occasion, masses of our country's people went to visit the holy shrine of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

During the ceremonies Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, in a speech, offered congratulations to the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution [Ayatollah Khamene'i] and to the Iranian people on the Ten Days of Dawn and the anniversary of the revolution victory.

Referring to Imam Khomeyni's outstanding role in the Islamic revolution movement, its victory, and its progress, Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni called upon the seminaries and the state cultural departments to pay greater attention to promotion of the virtues of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the dimensions of his personality.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni enumerated achievements of the founder of the Islamic Republic in June, 1963, until the victory of the Islamic revolution and added: Imam Khomeyni's spiritual charisma before and after the revolution was a significant factor in bringing success to the affairs of the revolution both before and after the revolution.

Addressing the countries of the region, he said: We stretch a hand of friendship towards all countries of the region. And through friendship and unity, we expect to eliminate U.S. influence in the region.

While stressing that America's 16 years of conspiracies against the Islamic revolution have failed to defeat this revolution, Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said: We are standing against the enemies with all our might; our people, our guards corps, the army, and our basij are defending aspirations of the revolution and the country's borders; and our enemies must have no doubt that just the same as before, their conspiracies will not weaken the firm resolve of our people.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni emphasized: Despite the eight-year difficulties of the war imposed [with Iraq] and the enemies' conspiracies, our people are not prepared to abandon the aspirations of Imam Khomeyni and the Islamic revolution.

Khomeyni concluded his speech by saying: To attend the rallies on 11 February will renew our allegiance with the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, and I, therefore, invite the country's Muslim and the people ever-present-in-the-arena to actively participate in these rallies.

Gulf Military Exercise Begins

LD3101145295 Tehran IRNA in English 1413 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bushehr, Jan. 31, IRNA—Regional military exercise code named 'Shahamat-73' is to start in the Persian Gulf waters Wednesday [1 February], the first day of the Ten-Day Dawn, it was announced here Tuesday.

Commander of the maneuver's headquarters, Colonel Parviz Qossi, said that the exercises will be launched in a 6,300 nautical miles between the longitudes of 50 degrees and 51.30 degrees east. [sentence as received]

Combat and logistic units of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and navy helicopters will participate in the five-day exercises, to be launched in five phases, Colonel Qossi told IRNA. He added that during the maneuver the participant units will display their combat ability and power. Colonel Qossi added that the exercises aim at boosting the combat power of divers and marines in employing vessels and advanced equipment. Some 80 serial exercises including diving, defence operations against chemical and microbiological attacks will be performed during the maneuver, Qossi said.

Tens of missile launcher vessels and speed boats will take part in the Shahamat-73 maneuvers.

Ayatollah Reportedly Says Regime Violates Islamic Principles

MM2701124095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jan 95 p4

[Unattributed report: "Rowhani Asks Iranian Authorities To Grant Him Exit Visa So He Can Leave the Country"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A senior ayatollah has accused the Iranian Government of "violating the basic principles of Islam," and has asked for an exit visa to leave the country.

In an open letter to the Iranian authorities, Ayatollah Seyyed Sadeq Rowhani said that life in Iran these days "is unbearable for those who abide by the true principles of our Islamic faith."

He said that the current government is pursuing a policy aimed at "distorting Islam in this country and harming and destroying it in various parts of the world." Rowhani, considered to be one of the six sources of emulation [marja'-e taqlid—religious authority], said that he had received an invitation from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to visit Damascus but the government prevented his departure. He also said that the invitation was conveyed to him by the Syrian ambassador in Tehran during a visit to Qom. In his letter, he added that "armed criminals" attacked his home in Qom and threatened to kill him and his family unless he declared allegiance to Supreme Leader 'Ali Khamene'i, and that intelligence agents are arresting his pupils regularly.

The 72-year-old Rowhani says that he wants to emigrate to "another Islamic country" because he finds life in Iran "unbearable." He adds: "I cannot remain a spectator while Islam is violated daily and while the true religious leaders are forced to remain silent in a country claiming to be an Islamic republic."

The following are some of the examples he gives in his letter:

1. The formation of the "Settlements Council," an illegitimate body with powers to interpret and even suspend Islamic rules.

2. The government claims that demonstration against the United States is one of the main duties of hajj but, Rowhani says, that is a false claim aimed at fomenting sedition between Muslims.

3. Storming of people's homes at night.... He says that intelligence agents carry out such raids on the pretext of searching for alcoholic drinks and other banned items.

4. Systematic violation of people's property. The government has confiscated the properties of about 1 million people since 1979.

5. The government is trying to interfere in the matter of the source of emulation by promoting minor mullahs sympathetic with the government.

6. Forging of fatwas [edicts] in Khomeyni's name. Rowhani says that he himself had written fatwas for Khomeyni that would repudiate some of the recent decisions made by the government on the pretext that they were Khomeyni fatwas.

Some observers believe that Rowhani's decision to break his silence provides the evidence that the senior ayatollahs see the current government as politically weak.

Rebel Radio Reports 24 Jan Explosion in Sardasht

NC0102072395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Jan 95

[Text] A report from the party committee in Sardasht states that at 2330 on 24 January, a bomb exploded in the Islamic Publicity Organization building, as a result of which heavy damages were inflicted on the building. The sound of the explosion was heard in most parts of the city.

It should be noted that those responsible for the explosion have not been identified. However, people believe that the explosion was the result of differences among the various groups of the regime.

Justice Ministry Imposes Stiff Penalties on Traders

LD0102113695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The justice minister today announced the names of traders who have in a major way violated the ratifications of the headquarters in charge of regulating the consumer goods market. These individuals have been prosecuted and convicted during the last week.

The spokesman of the headquarters said: During the last week, the managing director of Golnab Vegetable Oil Factory in Arak was fined the sum of 403,806,000 rials together with 30 lashes. He was found guilty of hoarding, charging high prices, and distributing oil products outside the official distribution network.

Furthermore, a car tire distributor in Semnan, who was found guilty of hoarding tires, was fined the sum of 33.43 million rials. He was also ordered to retail his goods at the officially set prices.

The State Penal Organization has also fined the managing director of the consumer cooperative of Tehran's Water Company the sum of 11,199,000 rials. His offense was charging high prices for butter and forcing customers to buy another item if they wanted to obtain the butter.

Cost Accounting Discussed in Budget Session

LD3001133895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The open session of the Majles today continued discussing the various articles of the national budget bill for 1374 [Iranian year beginning 21 March]. Here the deputies debated suggestions from the Majles specialist committees as well as some deputies regarding each revenue related article. Some suggestions were approved. Our correspondent reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] According to one of the debated articles; the Ministry of Education is allowed next year to auction parts or all of the lands or administrative and educational buildings and to transfer the income to the country's general revenue account. All companies—private and those identified by law—must highlight in their sale receipts, two percent of their sale which is the share of the Ministry of Education. Should they fail to forward this share, the Ministry of Finance must deduct the figure from the companies' central fund. In order to expand part time and complementary training and to allow the proper use of existing facilities, the Ministry of Education is also responsible for letting buildings and educational facilities at reasonable rates to qualified school staff as to allow the formation of extra curriculum courses. The income must be paid to the country's general revenue account.

According to another article the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defense are allowed to let other government agencies use their engineering equipment and or sign contracts with them in order to carry out development projects. This is allowed only after due consideration for the specialization and capacity of the forces under command as well as the maintenance of full combat capacity.

The law enforcement force is permitted to charge a maximum of 15,000 rials for each vehicle when changing the car registration plates across the country. This income will be paid to the general treasury account. [passage omitted]

Another budget article permits the receipt of payment from each conscript who has received exemption for whatever reason. [passage Omitted]

The law enforcement force is also permitted to charge a minimum of 5,000 rials and a maximum of 50,000 rials for border exit permits that are given to travellers at the country's borders. This must be paid to the country's general revenue account.

As of next year the ministries of health and culture are permitted to charge the cost of evaluating foreign educational documents of students who have studies abroad.

The Ministry of Health is allowed to charge, as of next year, for permitting the production and import of medicine, food stuff, and cleaning products as well as building of factories producing medicine and the employment of technical staff. The income must be paid to the country's general account.

To improve the use of state facilities and to economize, another budget article allows government agencies, except the Armed Forces, to rent state reception buildings and airplanes—after due consideration for state interests—to other government organizations, revolutionary institutions, and private companies and individuals for a fixed period. The income must be paid to the country's general account.

Majles deputies are to continue discussing the budget bill at the second part of today's open session which sits from 1100 GMT.

Minister Discusses Development of Cities, Towns

LD3001194595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Some 2.4 trillion rials have been allocated to the development of the country's towns and cities during the next year [year ending 21st March 1996].

Interior Minister Mr. Besharati announced the above news while explaining the past performance and the future plans of the Interior Ministry.

He said: With a 20 percent increase in the funds allocated to the development of urban areas until the end of the second development plan, the physical appearance of the country will be transformed.

The interior minister stressed that security reigned in different towns and cities, in particular in border areas, and said: Special measures by the government have succeeded in attracting people's greater attention towards the long-term policies of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He then referred to the activities of the press and political parties in the country, and underlined the freedom of the press in Iran.

He added: Ordinary people and individuals involved with the press, despite the freedoms they have been granted, choose to fully comply with the law.

Mr. Besharati said there were at present 115 political and industrial organizations who had so far managed to obtain the Interior Ministry's legal permission for their activities. He added that belief in the Constitution and loyalty to the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran constituted the main condition for activity by industrial organizations and political parties and associations.

The interior minister, moreover, said that areas affected by natural disasters had suffered damage amounting to more than 300 billion rials. He added: The sum of 350 billion rials has provisionally been put aside for the purpose of meeting the cost of possible damage during the next year.

Transport Official Announces Aviation Projects

LD2701184595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During the Second Development Plan, 22 airports will begin work across the country, announced Mr. Shahcheraghi, deputy minister for road and transport, and the managing director of the national aviation organization.

Mr. Shahcheraghi, who is in the town of Uromeyeh for opening of several airport related projects, said this morning: The installation of new airport equipment and an increase in the number of buildings has given a suitable international capacity to the air fleet of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added that the air transport industry was now self sufficient but needed cooperation from the banking system to develop further.

Conditions have been prepared to transfer parts of airport operations to the private sector, which could actively participate in the construction of terminals and hotels as well as airport advertising, the head of the national aviation organization said.

He added that before the end of the [Iranian] year [21 March], the expanded sections of the Shiraz and Maragheh's Sahand airports will become operational, and that the first phase of Tehran's Imam Khomeyni International Airport will end next year.

Construction Ministry on Silo Expansion Plan

LD0102103595 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, (IRNA)—Construction Jihad Ministry is planning to add to the silo capacity of the country during the Second Five-Year Plan, to be launched this year, announced the deputy in charge of silo projects, Davud Jafari.

Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday [31 January], he said that the ministry is to develop the silo capacity of the country to 1,200,000 tons by the end of March 1997. Meanwhile, silos with a capacity of 800,000 tons have been completed.

He added that the ministry is in charge of handling three silo projects in Tabriz, Takestan and Rasht with the capacity of 120,000 tons, 80,000 tons and 120,000 tons respectively in addition to the project of flour mill in Tabriz with a capacity of 300 tons. The projects were completed and opened during the past five years.

Other big concrete construction silos are in Shiraz, Bandar Imam, Kerman, Hamadan, and Gonbad, with capacities ranging from 50,000 to 120,000 tons and the flour mill in Kerman with a capacity of 300 tons which were completed by the end of 1993.

Jafari added that the ministry is currently studying other projects in Zahedan, Kermanshah, Ahvaz, Gonbad and Lorestan, with capacities ranging from 50,000 to 100,000 tons.

He concluded by saying that the ministry will have a 25-billion-rial credit next year.

President's Adviser Views Foreign Investments

LD2801155395 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vienna, Jan. 28, IRNA—Iran will open its doors to further foreign investment and has designated several joint projects in its Second Five-Year Development Plan, said President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's economic advisor Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli.

Speaking to journalists on Friday [27 January] Davos, Switzerland, 'Adeli emphasized that the government in Tehran will guarantee investments made in infrastructure, especially in projects such as roads, bridges as well as oil pipelines and export orientated consumer goods.

"Under certain circumstances, foreign investors could acquire more than 50 percent of joint ventures", said 'Adeli who is in Davos taking part in the World Economic Forum.

"In comparison to other Asian countries, Iran has relatively low taxes" said 'Adeli adding: "In addition to this, investors could benefit from several tax reliefs earmarked for foreign investors".

The World Economic Forum (27-31 Jan) is attended by around 30 heads of states, 200 ministers and 850 economic experts.

Foreign Investment Restrictions Eased in Kish Zone

LD2901134195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kish free trade zone is prepared to sell or rent land to all natural or corporate persons, and to allow foreign citizens interested in investing in the island to rent land according to the free trade zone regulations.

Mr. Yazdanpanah, general manager of the Kish free trade zone, told reporters today that the new free trade zone law ends legal restrictions for foreign investment in the area, and foreign citizens can now invest independently or in participation with Iranian investors in the region's commerce, services, or industry.

He said the first foreign investor was a Swedish company that built a now operational 1,000 number mobile phone system.

Referring to the fact that 400,000 Iranian and foreign tourists visited the area last year, he said four units are being built that will be put on the market when finished to compensate for a lack of private and public accommodation.

Central Bank Reports on Letters of Credit, Loans

LD2801140495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Central Bank has paid off all letters of credit for the import of goods for the year 1373 [year ending 20 March 1995].

According to a report by our correspondent, Central Bank Governor Mohsen Nurbakhsh spoke to reporters today and explained the above news. He said: The volume of letters of credit opened at the Central Bank has been between $7.5-8 billion, and the undertakings have been fully paid for. [passage omitted]

Speaking about deferred payments, the Central Bank governor said: So far we have reached agreements with other parties for the postponement of our loans amounting to $12.7 million. He expressed the hope that other agreements will be reached by the end of the current year on further deferred payments. Mr. Nurbakhsh said: The growth of our cash flow [naqdinegi] reached 34 percent in the year 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993], but the current level of growth for cash flow is equivalent to 16 percent. [passage omitted]

Agreement Signed on Overdue Debt to Turkey

LD3101152995 Tehran IRNA in English 1507 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara, Jan. 31, IRNA—Iran's Central Bank has undertaken to pay back nearly dlrs. 150 million of Iran's overdue debts to Turkish companies through Aegean Bank of Turkey, according to informed sources at Central Bank of Iran.

Diplomatic sources and banking circles here say the Central Bank of Iran and Aegean Bank of Turkey have signed an agreement on a short term loan under which the Turkish bank undertook to repay Iran's outstanding debts to Turkish companies.

Last month, a delegation from the Iranian Central Bank arrived here to hold talks with Turkish financial officials on ways Iran could pay back its debts arrears. Turkish officials estimate Iran's debts to Turkish companies at about dlrs. 130 million and to the Central Bank of Turkey at dlrs. five million. Foodstuff, raw materials for tire production, vehicles, glass, auto parts and chemical substances were among major commodities exported to Iran by Turkey.

'Positive Agreements' Reached With Turkmenistan

LD3101204095 Tehran IRNA in English 2009 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA—Iranian and Turkmen officials reached positive agreements to expand bilateral cooperation in the banking, customs affairs, transport and trade areas.

Relations between Iran and Turkmenistan have enjoyed a growing trend in recent years and President Saparmurad Niyazov's visit to Tehran has served to boost cooperation between the two countries in the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the organization of the Caspian Sea littoral states.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the countries which recognized Turkmenistan immediately after declaration of independence by the republic in 1991.

Turkmenistan shares a 1,000 kms of borderline with the Islamic Republic of Iran and its capital city is within 45 kms distance of the Iranian border.

The two countries attach importance to the existing relations, cultural and historical bonds and regard it as useful to pave the way for expansion of cooperation between the two nations.

Opening of embassy in the either country's capital, border crossing, setting up customs offices and building bridge over the border rivers as well as the trade agreements reached between the two states showed the friendly and neighbourly relations between Tehran and Ashgabat.

On economic cooperation, the oil and gas sector is regarded as the solid basis for the prospects of relation between Iran and Turkmenistan including the accord on project to pipe Turkmen gas through Iran.

President Niyazov, left home yesterday at the end of his two day visit to Tehran.

Experts on Central Asian issues believe that the pipeline project will guarantee the security and stability of the Central Asia.

Some 4,000 kms of pipeline through Iran and Turkey will transfer 10 to 12 billion cubic meters of gas annually to Europe. The pipeline project was on the agenda of President Niyazov's talks in Tehran with President Rafsanjani on Monday.

The two presidents said that they studied the financial issues and construction of the project. Work on the project started on August 24 last year in the presence of observers from Russia, Turkey and Kazakhstan.

The laying of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway track is another joint venture between the two countries which when complete will connect the eastern Asian and the central Asian states to Turkey through Turkmenistan and Iran.

Turkmenistan is the only country in Central Asia which has common borders with Iran.

To gain an access to Iran, the Middle East, Turkey, the Persian Gulf and Pakistan through Turkmenistan is vital for the Central Asian states especially for Turkmenistan.

In the agricultural area, Iranian agriculture experts are busy conducting researches in different parts of Turkmenistan to standardize the production of cotton in the republic, and Iran is also cooperating in the transit of Turkmen cotton through Chahbahar Port on the Gulf of Oman.

Cooperation between the neighbouring provinces of Iran and Turkmenistan is also underway and the provincial officials of the two states have signed trade agreements and have held trade fairs in the neighbouring provinces.

Iran and Turkmenistan signed a letter of understanding last year to set up permanent stores and trade fairs in Marv, Turkmenistan, by the Iranian northeastern Khorasan Province. The letter of understanding envisages cooperation in the [words indistinct], transportation [words indistinct], reconstruction of industrial units in the Turkmen province of Mari and setting up chambers of commerce in the two neighbouring provinces of Khorasan and Mari.

The other Iranian province which shares borders with Turkmenistan is Mazandaran on the Caspian Sea.

Exiled Shaykh Claims To Be Banned From Country

NC3101184195 Paris AFP in English 1726 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Jan 31 (AFP)—The brother-in-law of the Iranian leader and an opponent of the Tehran government said Tuesday [31 January] he had been banned from returning home to seek trial after 11 years of exile in Iraq.

Shaykh 'Ali Tahrani, 70, brother-in-law of Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, told AFP that the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad had refused to give him travel documents to rejoin his family who returned to Iran two years ago.

The shaykh left Iran several years after the 1979 Islamic revolution after criticising the "despotism" of the then leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

During the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, he repeatedly condemned the "bellicose policies" of Tehran.

Shaykh 'Ali said Tuesday he was ready to appear before court in Iran to "answer any accusation in a public trial." Tehran feared such a trial "could turn into a people's revolution," he added.

Shaykh 'Ali said he was not linked to any political movement and wanted to return mainly to edit his writings on Islam. If his bid to return failed he would settle in France, he said.

Pakistan

Article Considers U.S. Central Asia Policy

BK2801122195 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 28 Jan 95 p 7

[Article by Dr. Moonis Ahmar: "US Policy in Central Asia"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The US ambitions in Central Asia are in a phase of transition. From being a cautious observer of the events taking place in the former Soviet Central Asian Republics in the post-Soviet disunion period, to a semi-active player in that region, the United States sees Central Asia as a massive unexplored area with tremendous opportunities of trade and also a source of some serious threats to regional political stability. Although Central Asia is far down on the list of US priorities, the region is slowly getting a place in the American foreign policy thinking.

Washington's perception about Central Asia needs to be examined seriously to understand the various sides of the ambitions of the only global superpower. Four important factors shape the US perception of Central Asia. First, the proximity of Central Asia to its southern Islamic neighbours and the growing Islamic resurgence there. Although, the existing political order in Central Asia is secular in nature and the governing circles there share the threat of religious fundamentalism with their Russian and Turkish counterparts, American political scientists involved in the Central Asian Affairs are unwilling to ignore the relevance of Islamic militancy, particularly in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Second, the unsettled ethnic and territorial disputes among the Central Asian States and with the neighbouring Russia, China and Afghanistan. This perennial threat and the absence of any mechanism for conflict management and resolution heavily influences the American perception of Central Asia.

Third, the proliferation of conventional weapons and those of mass destruction, particularly as a result of civil strife going on in Afghanistan and Tajikistan. The United States is also concerned about the future status of the nuclear capability of Kazakhstan.

Fourth, the future of democracy, which is a question of some significance to the United States. Despite the commitments made by the Central Asian rulers to democracy and market economy, nothing has changed in these countries in terms of political freedom and economic liberalisation. The opposition in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan is still not satisfied with the democratic standards of the regimes in power.

Other factors which shape the US perception of Central Asia are the historical Russian view of large Russian/Slavic minorities in the region, massive untapped mineral sources and prospects of their exploitation, the influence of Iran on the political, cultural and religious institutions of the Central Asian States and the relative absence of anti-American feelings in such states. It is the combination of such factors which shape American outlook of Central Asia, determine its future ambitions and will guide its future policy towards the region.

But the US faces enormous limitations in Central Asia. Some of these are genuine, those related to geography, politics and religion while the rest have been exaggerated.

The foremost American disadvantage in Central Asia is the lack of knowledge and expertise about that region. The former Soviet experts in the State Department, Pentagon and other official or semi-official bodies, cannot help to meet the existing and future challenges to the US policy in Central Asia. The reason is that majority of these experts have been only concerned with selected superpower issues, namely arms proliferation, both conventional and nuclear, the Soviet domestic politics, particularly in the European and Caucasian parts and the US-Soviet rivalry in various strategic areas of the world.

The only expertise which can be of some use in dealing with the Central Asian States is their proficiency in the Russian language. Since Russian is widely spoken and understood in all the former Soviet Central Asian Republics, this skill can be a plus point in dealing with Central Asians. However, in some American academic institutions and research think-tanks, Central Asia has assumed greater importance and some serious work is being done to intellectually feed the policy making apparatus in Washington D.C.

The second limitation is US dependence on countries like Russia, Turkey, India, Israel, European Community, Japan and South Korea for its activities in Central Asia. Such a policy can be wrongly interpreted as a systematic attempt to sustain the anti-fundamentalist and pro-secular Central Asian regimes in power. Anti-American feelings in Central Asia can gain ground if the anti-Muslim drive in the West, including the United States, continues. Western biases against the Muslims can invariably create anti-American feelings among the Central Asians and generate hostility towards the US.

The United States also faces problems in Central Asia because of a fragile political order in that region. Opportunities for investment and trade cannot be fully utilised unless ethnic, territorial and religious conflicts are managed and resolved.

Some American scholars have examined the US interests and role in Central Asia in depth. James Rupert, an American political analyst, in an article published in the

Foreign Policy journal pointed out the fact that the US interests in Central Asia are vital because of the following reasons:-

—The region holds vast energy resources as well as ex-Soviet nuclear weapons and facilities.

—Its stability will be important to the other former Soviet republics and its direction may greatly affect the Asian and the Islamic worlds it is now rejoining.

Yet few Americans have considered forming a stable US relationship with Central Asia. Many presume that the reportedly strong Islamic fundamentalist movement there and influence from neighbouring Iran make it a hostile territory for US diplomacy. But there is no broad fundamentalist movement, and any hostility is largely imagined.

Rupert suggests to the US policy-makers: "...precisely because the world has become so small, the United States must attend to the troubled lands of Central Asia; vast, nuclearised, rich in resources yet mired in poverty. Political leadership must not ignore them, even if the popular mood does. America remains the worldly power, Central Asia is the long-isolated newcomer".

The United States can match other players in Central Asia in terms of influence and friendly relations with regional countries if its Central Asian policy is based on clear objectives and long-term interests. This would require a shift in the current low-profile diplomacy to an assertive response to developments taking place there. It is true that the United States has increased its assistance to some Central Asian countries (it is the third largest donor to these countries after European community and Japan) and the US multinational companies have invested billions of dollars, particularly in Kazakhstan, but still American role lacks a long-term perspective.

One way of seeking goodwill and establishing rapport with the Central Asian States could be to support the sovereignty of the region from external threats, namely from Russia. The US criticism of the notion of Islamic fundamentalism, too, needs to be corrected. There is a difference between fundamentalism and terrorism. If the forces of Islamic revivalism in Central Asia are equated with terrorism by the United States, the US could run into difficulties. For decades, the Central Asian States were under Russian tutelage. Their dependence on Moscow for a variety of reasons should be a cause of concern and not satisfaction for US policy-makers.

Editorial Claims Bhutto 'Obeying' U.S. Policy

95AS0182C Karachi TAKBEER in Urdu 8 Dec 94 pp 5-6

[Editorial: "Deal on the Nuclear Issue and the Results"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto told the DAILY TIMES in an interview during her visit to the United Kingdom that 90 percent of the Pakistani people think that we should blast a nuclear bomb. [According to Bhutto,] this is a very dangerous atmosphere and her government has showed patience and forbearance in this situation. We have to recognize the fact that if we do not do that, extremist forces will take over power by removing the moderates. The radical forces have surrounded her from all sides and she does not want to become another Bosnia. Bhutto said that due to the U.S. refusal to reinstate its aid and supply the F-16s, the extremists are pressing Pakistan to make nuclear bombs. Until the United States reviews its policy related to nuclear non-proliferation, the fundamentalist forces will continue to become stronger. She said that Pakistan should be encouraged to fight off the pressure from extremists. [passage omitted]

Dr. Munir Ahmed Khan said that India has amassed 300 kg of plutonium which is enough to make 60 atomic bombs. This has increased the danger to South Asia. He said that India's making nuclear ballistic missiles has increased the danger of nuclear weapons several times over in this region. India has installed Prithvi, the missile with a range of 250 km and is experimenting with Agni with a range of 4,000 km. Both these missiles have the capability of carrying nuclear weapons. What Dr. Munir Ahmed Khan has said about India's hostile designs is no secret. He just revealed some facts that Benazir and her Western patrons know very well. Every patriotic Pakistani, seeing India's preparations and desiring to save the nation form India's aggressive designs, considers seeing Pakistan become a nuclear power unavoidable. This is not just an emotional reaction from some people; it is the opinion of prominent experts in foreign affairs and defense. General Aslam Beg, former commander in chief of Pakistani armed forces, and General Hamid Gul, who played a key role in the jihad in Afghanistan, have openly expressed the opinion that Pakistan should blast a bomb before the 1995 meeting of the Nuclear Club in order to get membership to this club. If it is not done then India, which has blasted a nuclear bomb in 1974, will become a member of the Nuclear Club and the door to this club will be permanently closed to Pakistan. Mr. Agha Shahi, who served as secretary and later as minister in the foreign minister for a long time and also has represented Pakistan in the United Nations for many years, discussed the topic of signing the NPT in an article published in the NAWA-I-WAQT in its 25 and 26 November issues and concluded that, "if we look from Pakistan's perspective, the NPT (despite the CPT treaty and cut of convention) cannot protect South Asia from nuclear weapons. No promise of support can guarantee Pakistan's safety in the context of nuclear weapons. There is no alternative to self-sufficiency. It is said that nuclear weapons are the first system of political weapons in the world. In the words of a nuclear analyst, Thomas Cheng, "nuclear weapons are not weapons for a war; their military value is the political influence that one gets from owning these weapons and political stability of the related nations and blocs is decided by it."

However, the clear stand of Pakistan's prominent nuclear scientist, military generals specializing in defense, and experienced foreign policy experts is that Pakistan should blast a nuclear bomb to become self-sufficient in this area. Otherwise, it will not have any guarantee of its defense. The prime minister's interview to the British newspaper DAILY TIMES appears to lean toward these Western powers that want to see Pakistan without any kind of nuclear capability. All her lament before her western patrons is that the extremists and fundamentalists in her country have surrounded her from all sides and are forcing her to blast a nuclear bomb. Interestingly enough, she herself said that 90 percent of the people in Pakistan also want this, and she is not allowing this to happen. She is asking for some "reward" for her "achievement" by saying that "Pakistan should be encouraged for its efforts to control the extremists."

Madam Benazir's interview which she must have given in full awareness of her senses and after a lot of thought raises many serious and important questions about her position, the people of Pakistan, and our national interests. It is her responsibility to answer these questions.

The most important issue is: who is she representing? She claims, and on this basis she is the prime minister, to be the elected representative of the people of Pakistan. However, in her statement she has clearly said that she has the support of only 10 percent of the people and that the other 90 percent are opposed to her on a sensitive and very important issue like nuclear power. The question arises: What rationale has she to remain in power if we follow democratic principles? If she is forcing the wishes of a 10 percent minority to please her western patrons on the other 90 percent population, on which democratic principles can she call herself a democratic ruler? After this open admission her position is nothing more than a foreign agent who was forced on this country to achieve their goals. Benazir's critics have been accusing of it for a long time because of her policies and actions in the past. However, it is the first time that she has admitted to her unrepresentative national position. The nation has the right to ask her to resign without any delay.

The other important issue that this interview brings to light is that all those people who want to see Pakistan a strong and stable nuclear power and its defense invincible are extremists and fundamentalists in Benazir's opinion. Compared to these, the other 10 percent people who agree with Israel, India, the United States, and other Western powers and want to see Pakistan without nuclear power and helpless against India are moderates in Benazir's opinion. They deserve praise and encouragement from Western powers despite being against the wishes of 90 percent of Pakistanis. The Western powers should help these 10 percent people even more in order to strengthen her position. Otherwise, the extremists with the support of the other 90 percent population, who according to Benazir have surrounded her from all sides, will remove these moderates from their path and take over power.

We have said in the beginning of this article that those who want Pakistan to become a nuclear power are not just emotional people living in ordinary homes. Our internationally famous nuclear scientists and well-known experts on defense and foreign affairs whose sensibility, understanding, and patriotism is beyond any question also have the same opinion because they know India's hostile and dangerous designs and its plans to make nuclear weapons. According to Mr. Agha Shahi, "No support for Pakistan in the presence of nuclear danger can guarantee its safety. There is no alternative to being self-sufficient." Nuclear Expert Thomas Cheng's comment which Agha Shahi has included in his article is more valuable in understanding the situation as a whole. According to Thomas Cheng nuclear weapons are not weapons of war; their real importance is in the area of political influence that these nations get and these help in resolving issues between various nations and blocs.

However, Madam Benazir, instead of adopting this extremely appropriate stand and fighting for Pakistan's case in the Western world and proving that these people are sensible and patriotic, is calling them extremists and fundamentalists. These terms connote as emotional, terrorists, enemies of intelligence, and violent people in the West. Thus by calling these patriotic people her rivals, Madam Benazir Bhutto is putting herself in the same category of people who want Pakistan to become weak and helpless and a puppet in the hands of India. If her opponents call her an agent of anti-Pakistan forces after this, will she be able to provide an appropriate answer to it?

In her interview to the British daily she said one other thing that needs clarification. She said that she is surrounded by extremists from all sides, but we do not want to create another Bosnia. The only meaning of her comment is that the Muslim blood being shed in Bosnia has not resulted from Serb aggression but from their own extremism. Thus, according to her, the extremists in Pakistan also want to force Pakistan on this path and Benazir and her supporters have stopped them. If that is what she means then she is not only ignoring facts but also is "pouring salt on the wounds of Bosnia" which cannot be expected from a friend. If she does mean this then she has to tell us what exactly does she mean. Otherwise, she should present an unconditional apology to the Muslim in Bosnia, Pakistan, and the rest of the world. The most serious aspect of this interview is that Madam Benazir is asking favors from the United States for not blasting an atomic bomb or making nuclear weapons, accepting India's pressure over Kashmir, and obeying U.S. policies. What is her purpose for this? Can F-16s, tanks, cannons, and other traditional arsenal guarantee our safety from the nuclear danger from India. Obviously, this is out of the question. Her purpose, which she made clear, is to fight the extremist and fundamentalist forces that want to make Pakistan a strong and proud nation. She wants the United States and its Western allies to continue supporting her to extend her rule, otherwise, as she put it, "extremist powers will take over by removing the moderates. This is an open deal compromising national interests for personal gain and Benazir Bhutto did not think it necessary to hide it and stubbornly announced it publicly. This is the test of our national pride and ardor. Will this nation still tolerate her after all this or decide to get rid of her?

Editorial Promotes Need for Nuclear Program

BK0102012795 Lahore JANG in Urdu 30 Jan 95 p 14

[Editorial:"Pakistan's Nuclear Program and Defense Purposes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, chairman of the parliamentary committee on Kashmir, has said that Pakistan's nuclear program is for peaceful purposes, but it may use this capability for defensive purposes as well when it becomes imperative. Pakistan never had the intention of using its nuclear program for offensive purposes. Its position has always been to use its program basically to overcome the energy crisis. On certain occasions, the western countries, including the United States, India, and Israel called Pakistan's nuclear program an Islamic bomb. On certain other occasions, while expressing their apprehensions about extending the nuclear technology to any other Muslim country, they tried various types of intimidation with Pakistan. The real purpose is to prevent a developing Muslim country from attaining expertise in nuclear technology. Nevertheless, as Pakistan has attained this expertise, under one pretext or other, attempts are being made to deprive it of this ability. Pakistan commenced its nuclear program only after India triggered a nuclear device, but no western country, including the United States, raised any objection to India's nuclear program. Besides, the United States, Canada, Russia, and several other countries have been encouraging India, although it has not allowed the International Atomic Energy Agency experts to inspect its nuclear installations. Pakistan has already had its installations inspected. Currently India is actively engaged in the production of missiles and its Agni and Prithvi missiles are posing threats to Pakistan's security. Even though the pressure on Pakistan to unilaterally sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] has ceased, our program still remains frozen. Nevertheless, whatever capability Pakistan has acquired may prove helpful in meeting its defense purposes. Pakistan cannot continue its peaceful nuclear program unilaterally, just as it got U.S. pressure eliminated by refusing to sign the NPT unilaterally and by explaining its position in a better way. Similarly, in view of India's nuclear preparations, Pakistan, through better clarification of its position, should continue its efforts to carry its programs forward. Especially, in view of India's aggressive designs, how long can Pakistan be steadfast in its stance on its peaceful nuclear program?

Article Stresses Indigenous Defense Manufacturing

BK2701131595 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 27 Jan 95 p 7

[Editorial: "Building Security"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] To the uninitiated, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's jubilation on the eve of K-8 aircraft's induction in the Pakistan Air Force's Basic Flying Training Wing on Wednesday may appear overblown. A trainer aircraft, that too manufactured with the cooperation of another country, China, is not exactly a long flight into the realm of technological advancement, especially in the age of B-2 bombers. But those who know better about the country's rather poor record in defence production and armament, may appreciate the Prime Minister's rhapsodic response.

While the K-8 jet will not make our skies securer, it is a handy addition to the crucial training facilities for our pilots. Then it has a huge symbolic value: It is the fruit of the joint efforts of Pakistani and Chinese expertise combined under an agreement signed in the mid-eighties. And though its gestation period has been rather long, but now, after its delivery, the K-8 can be deservedly described as a milestone in bilateral technological endeavours that have been part of an enduring friendship. To continue to benefit from and share the Chinese experience and achievements in the defence field is particularly significant for Pakistan at a time when its neighbour and arch enemy is making every possible attempt to add to its defence muscle.

However, to build a genuinely reliable defence system, it will not be enough to rely on the expertise of others. An indigenous capability has to be built. This is unavoidable in view of Pakistan's heavy dependence on external sources of arms supply. The real lesson of the F-16 story and indeed that of the Pressler Amendment is that this dependence severely undermines the security of the country. Pakistan's initial efforts to get fighter planes from the United States were driven by the sole consideration that they were crucial for partially countering the Indian Air Force's greater numerical advantage. And now when Islamabad has reconciled with the hard fact that it will not get the planes, but it might get the money that has been paid for them, it remains in a hugely disadvantageous position vis a vis India.

The situation would not have been so, had attention been paid to developing indigenous technological and scientific infrastructure to meet the country's security and other needs, and if more investment had been made in this sector. This has not been done and now the chickens are coming home to roost. Today, the state of the affairs is such that even if Pakistan shops expensive defence equipment from the open market, it remains vulnerable to the sellers' manipulation because it will remain dependent on their help for the supply of spare parts, or even overhauling. This will not change as along as we continue to use the crutches of outside help to bolster our security. To be truly capable of defending ourselves against external aggression, we will have to develop indigenous defence capability.

Foreign Investment Inflow Outpaces Capital Outflow

BK2901114895 Islamabad BUSINESS RECORDER in English 29 Jan 95 pp 1, 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi—The outflow of capital in December, 1994 was less than 50 million dollars, while the inflow into Pakistan of direct and portfolio investment was 93 million dollars, it is reliably learnt.

Investigations by Business Recorder on reports emanating from stock brokers that foreign fund managers were selling in Pakistan and may be withdrawing the cash required for massive redemption on account of investors pulling out from emerging markets due to the Mexican devaluation are not substantiated by bankers looking after the accounts of major foreign funds investing in Pakistan.

These bankers do concede, however, that some of these foreign fund operators have sold big chunks of their holdings in some of the companies and have kept their cash in their special rupee convertible accounts, pushing up banks' liquidity in December and January.

Repatriation of 45 million dollars to Hong Kong could be confirmed. But this transfer is said to be on behalf of Pakistani investors operating from Hong Kon. It is said that a number of Pakistan's settled and doing business in Pakistan, including retired bureaucrats (both white and Khaki), as well as textile magnates have major accounts in private banks in Singapore and Hong Kong. In the words of a foreign banker, the qualifications for major account holders in these banks is 50 million dollars and above.

According to sources in the markets, a big portion of the North American GDR [Global Depository Receipts] holders in Pakistan Telecommunication [PTC] Voucher have sold back their private placement allocation to Jardine Flemings, Twenty-two percent of GDRs were allocated to North American investors.

Another factor which is responsible for the pressure on PTC Vouchers is that around 20 percent of the vouchers were allocated to Pakistan through the good offices of the underwriter to the global issue. A number of these big businessmen obtained liberal credit to place their orders at the strike price. The first-day placers got 80 percent of their order and the second day requesters got only 20 percent of their desired allocations. The major gold dealers who have special swap transaction arrangements with the Government of Pakistan were also among the procurers of PTC Vouchers at Rs. 55 [rupees] per vouchers.

It is said that ARY [expansion not given] alone obtained vouchers worth $ 75 million.

It is the 20 percent Pakistan players, listed in the Middle East and UK, who are reported to be selling in a falling market to pay off the bank credit obtained by them to finance their PTC Voucher purchases.

PTC accounts: these realities, however, do not let the PTC and the government off the hook.

The previous period re-adjustment of Rs. 2.59 billions, the Rs. 5 billion in receivables and Rs. 2 billion shown against work-in- progress have shaken the confidence of the capital market in the issue.

Thursday's effort on the part of the government owned and managed Development Finance Institutions—National Investment Trust, Investment Corporation of Pakistan and State Life Investment Corporation of Pakistan—cannot be sustained for a long time. These institutions can lead the market but cannot, on their own, absorb the full brunt of the largest scrip in the market.

Government-owned banks can be utilised to provided them the liquidity to shore up the market. But in the long run it is the fundamentals, said the brokers, which dictate the market.

The government must do some provisioning for PTC, as it still holds 88 percent of the stock, for some of the unverifiable facts pointed out by the auditors. Secondly, the change of auditors for 1994 accounts, after the fiasco caused by the previous year's financial results, would reflect poorly on the minds of the investors.

The PTC was the first big-ticket privatization from Pakistan. Poor planning and handling by the authorities would have an adverse impact on the future sale of government equity in the market.

Editorial Sees Positive Signs for Investment

BK3101125895 Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 31 Jan 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Positive Signals"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Statistics seemingly speak about stability in foreign investment interest in the country which is indeed a reassuring aspect for accelerating the pace of investment activity in vital sectors of the economy like industry, power generation, petroleum and gas exploration etc. The Secretary Board of Investment Mohibullah Shah reportedly stated the other day that a number of delegations comprising top executives of reputable multinational companies currently visiting Pakistan to explore viable avenues of investment opportunities, were offered a package of investment in different fields. The estimated capital outlay in these projects was stated to be in the region of 10 billion dollars, and the projects included development of infrastructure potential comprising ports, laying of railway tracks, construction of roads and airports, establishment of oil refineries, laying of pipelines for transmission of gas from Turkmenistan, etc.

These developments do bear out active investment interest from the intending foreign investors while at the same time, the government machinery also seems to be moving in top gear to push forward the objective of attracting foreign investment. This undoubtedly carries the promise for materialisation of the country's hopes and aspirations to redouble the pace of development activity on a wide front with the support of foreign investment so that the rising dependence on foreign loans which brings in its wake harsh and unpalatable conditionalities, could be drastically reduced.

A news report in the Business Recorder the other day also brought to fore an encouraging feature in the present scenario of deregulated flow of foreign exchange into and outside the country representing mainly investments from abroad and repatriation of profits or capital gains by foreign investors. It has been noted that inflow of foreign funds in December 1994, amounting to $93 million outstripped with a wide margin, the outflow of an estimated amount of $50 million. This is indicative of a well-sustained pace of foreign investment while at the same time, foreign investors do not have to face any hurdles for repatriation of their profits and capital. The on balance edge held by flow of capital into Pakistan over the outflow, augurs well for stable pace of foreign investment.

Meanwhile, the chief executive of International Finance Corporation (IFC) Jannik Lindsbaek currently visiting Pakistan also reportedly declared in his press conference in Karachi the other day that there existed favourable climate for foreign private investment in the country although he felt that high rate of inflation in Pakistan was a discouraging aspect. However, he expressed the view that the government's policy initiatives were moving in the right direction to control the situation.

Thus, the allout support to Pakistan in its quest to seek foreign investment, from the World Bank affiliate, is indeed a reassuring element not only for the country but also for foreign investors looking forward to investing in this country.

Petroleum Minister on Outcome of Iran Visit

BK0102094195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister for petroleum and natural resources, Mr. Anwar Saifullah Khan, has said that Pakistan will get liquefied petroleum gas, LPG, from Iran through a 1,650-km-long pipeline to meet the growing demands from the far flung areas of the country.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad soon after his arrival from Iran, the petroleum minister said the project in private sector will cost from $3.5 billion to $4 billion and will be completed in about three years. Iran, he said, has lots of expertise in developing and installing oil and gas refinery and could help Pakistan in this field. He said it has become all the more essential to plan for the energy needs of the next century as the demand continues to grow at a rapid pace. Presently, he said, only 10-12 percent of the entire population is availing the natural gas and it is the government's endeavor that the facility should be extended to the rest of population in remote areas. To another query, he said Pakistan will continue to seek other avenues for getting oil and gas from friendly neighboring countries. Referring to his talks with the Iranian leadership, the minister said he also mentioned the gross human rights violations and atrocities in the Indian occupied Kashmir and got a very positive response.

Mr. Saifullah's visit to Iran was the follow-up of the visits of the prime minister and the president to Iran.

Asif 'Extremely Disappointed' in Russian Ties

BK2801133095 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Jan 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Jan 27—Noting that Russians policy towards South Asia remains as imbalanced as ever despite Pakistan's continuous efforts to improve its relations with the Russian Federation, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said on Thursday [26 January] night that Russia should have a balanced policy in South Asia.

Talking to a group of journalists in PAF's [Pakistan Air Force] C-130 aircraft while returning from Baku to Islamabad on Thursday, Mr Asif said, that Pakistan was extremely disappointed that despite our efforts, it could not develop good relations with Russia and that there were no corresponding reaction from Moscow. He said after his visit to New Delhi, the Russian prime minister made remarks contrary to what had been earlier agreed between Pakistan and Russia on their bilateral ties. He said the Russian policy towards South Asia had undergone very little change and it continued to be the policy followed by the former Soviet Union.

Replying to a question on Chechnya, the Foreign Minister reiterated Pakistan's stand envisaging solution of this issue through peaceful talks. He said "we were shocked that Russia accused Pakistan of employing mercenaries in Chechnya." He said this was a baseless allegation as "we don't interfere in other countries internal affairs."

At the same time, he said, nobody could condone the use of such brutal force against its own people and "we as Muslims cannot let it go without expressing our concern".

Pakistan, Mr Asif said, looked for peaceful solution to the crisis in Chechnya and hoped that the Russians would put their own house in order rather than accuse other countries of interference. He said Western Europe was getting edgy over Russian policy and its honeymoon with Russia was over.

However, Sardar Asif Ahmed Ali sounded optimistic that Pakistan's relations with Russia would improve. Despite Pakistan's efforts made for cultivating good relations with Russia, it did not get like response. He said that something had been happening in Moscow and consequently it was not prepared to annoy India.

He said during his visit to Baku, he conveyed President Leghari and Prime Minister Bhutto's gratitude to Azerbaijani President for his country's firm and principled support to Pakistan's stand on Kashmir.

About ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmed Ali said ECO was emerging as a strong bloc and initially it was an economic bloc but eventually it was going to emerge as a political bloc. The ECO countries, he said, support one another on political disputes especially on Kashmir. He said that five ECO countries were supporting Pakistan openly on Kashmir while others were extending implied support. No ECO country, he said, opposed Pakistan's principled stand on Kashmir. He said also the ECO countries feel strongly about Chechnya.

Joint Ministerial Commission With Oman Concludes

BK0102014595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan and Oman have agreed to start ferry service between the two countries from September this year. Both the sides also agreed to establish a joint holding company to enhance bilateral cooperation in various fields.

An agreement to this effect was signed between Pakistan and Oman after the conclusion of second session of Pakistan-Oman Joint Ministerial Commission in Islamabad today. The Omanese commerce minister, Mr. Maqbul Bin-'Ali Bin-Sultan, and adviser to prime minister for finance and economic affairs, Mr. V.A. Jaffery, signed the agreement on behalf of the respective governments.

It was decided to accelerate the export of Basmati rice to Oman. Pakistan would also help in establishing a rice mill as well as a fertilizer plant in Oman. Pakistan will provide training facilities to the Omanese personnel in the fields of telecommunications, postal services, and agricultural sector. Both the sides agreed to reactivate the Council of Businessmen so that the private sector could play more effective role in all fields of economic and technical cooperation.

Retired General Reviews Current State of Army

BK3001113495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 30 Jan 95 p 6

[Article by Brigadier (Retd) A.R. Singh in the "Observer's Column": "Army Through 1995—A Review"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The year 1995 promises to be a landmark year for the Army in terms of the escalation or deescalation of the external threat: the state of civil-military relationship and the impending changes within its own high command. While all light-hearted talk of war must be scrupulously avoided, India-Pakistan relations continue to get worse by the year to keep the two countries on the collision course rather than off it.

To Kashmir, the one festering source of Indo-Pak hostility, has been added the heightened profile of India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) agents in Sindh's "mini insurgency". The closure of the Indian Consulate-General in Karachi by Islamabad had been a direct sequel to RAW's suspected disruptive activities in the city and elsewhere in the province.

On Kashmir issue, Indian intransigence remains as emphatic as before. It shows no sign whatsoever of honouring its international commitment to let the Kashmiris exercise their right of self-determination under a UN-supervised plebiscite. For India, Kashmir remains a settled issue that can be discussed only for certain cosmetic territorial adjustments here and there. There seems to be little or no likelihood, therefore, of any progress being made towards a full and final settlement of the issue. It is going to stay as a dormant volcano ready to erupt once again to engulf the Subcontinent in the flames of yet an other war—deadlier than before.

Pak Army, along with PAF [Pakistani Air Force] and PN [Pakistani Navy], will have to stay in a state of maximum operational readiness to meet the threat arising dramatically without much notice. Nineteen ninety-five may well prove to be yet another nineteen sixty-five climaxing three decades of accumulated tensions and misgivings. Optimistically, if the worst case scenario does not materialise through the year, it might as well pass of without in any way helping to further the peace process. Peace in the Subcontinent has, in effect, been the absence of war more than the normalisation of good neighbourly relations between India and Pakistan.

After the challenge of external threat looming on the horizon larger than ever, Army's own reputation to deliver the goods in a given crisis would be in order.

Can the Army without the requisite legal cover, operate at all to achieve the desired results? The question needs to be thoroughly examined for future guidance.

More importantly, the political and constitutional implications of Army's frequent use in civil affairs, functionally or in an advisory capacity, will also have to be carefully worked out to rationalise procedures and ensure smooth, uninterrupted civil-military relationship. Military praetorianism, has, unfortunately, been a part of our national history. It can be traced back to the very birth of Pakistan in a circumstance of extreme gravity confronting the fledgling state with the question of life and death. Bleeding from the wounds of an unfair partition, Pakistan stood unsteady on its feet in the midst of an avalanche of uprooted humanity pouring from across the border and an imposed war up in the Kashmir mountains. The twin task of handling the refugee exodus and fighting a war brought the Army to the fore as the guardian of national security: of its very existence.

Political and administrative elements being still in disarray looked up to the Army, the only discipline force in the country, for every kind of help and assistance. In due course the intermingling of civil and military spheres set a pattern of governance in which the military emerged as the dominant force.

The pattern remains basically unchanged in spite of the many ups and downs in the civil-military equation. Civilian and political predominance or democratic revival, tends to turn out more like a brief respite from military predominance than an enduring condition rooted in a sound institutional base.

The fact remains that all political and geopolitical (the 1971 trauma) changes took place either under direct military rule or covert intervention. Even in the first eleven years—1947-1958—marked for the uninterrupted continuation of the political process at the national level, the Army stayed as the eminence grise, the real power behind the political throne. The Lahore Martial Law of 1953; dismissal of Prime Minister Khawaja Nazimuddin; dissolution of the constituent assembly in 1954; formation of the so-called "thorough" Cabinet with the Army C-in-C, Gen Ayub, holding the defence portfolio without relinquishing his Army command, etc., are some of the known instances of brazen military intervention in national affairs.

In a recent statement, Mr Sherbaz Mazari, Pakistan's only politician turned political philosopher, spoke of the endemic presence of the military high command behind every major politico - administrative change—whether at the individual or the collective level. This has been the case since 1958 only with minor variations of detail.

Mr Mazari went on to name Z.A. Bhutto, the late Mr Muhammad Khan Junejo, Ms Benazir Bhutto (since 1988-1990 and 1993) Mian Nawaz Sharif rising to state power via the GHQ. [sentence as published] They also went out of power they had come to power. [sentence as published] Z.A.B. was executed under Zia's Martial Law; Muhammad Khan Junejo also fell a prey to Zia's fury while Benazir and Nawaz Sharif both were ousted by a civilian President with Army's active support.

A redefinition of the politico-administrative role of Army would further be in order through 1995 to ensure against a recurrence of August 1990 crisis leading to the dismissal of Benazir government.

Within its own command structure, the Army is in for a major reshuffle. By early 1996 as many as nearly a dozen senior generals including the Chief of the Army Staff [COAS], General Abdul Waheed and the Chief of the General Staff [CGS], Lieutenant-General Jehangir will have got their bowlers and made their final bows from the centre of the civil military stage. There is a narrow gap of time between the retirement dates of the COAS and CGS, the latter due to relinquish service about a week before the former.

It remains to be seen if the time-leg [as published] is either condoned or Gen Jehangir's promotion to the top slot advanced to bridge the gap.

After the retirement of Lieut-Gens Humayun Khan Bangash, Khalid Latif Mughal, Ghulam Muhammad Malik, Syed Tanvir Hussain Naqvi, Muhammad Akram Khan and Ayaz Ahmad—due this year—Jehangir Karamat will be the senior most Lieut-Gen left to be considered for promotion to full General, other things being equal.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.